

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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ECCLIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

THE CHURCHMAN'S MIRROR.

No. II.

A PLEA FOR A PATIENT HEARING.

WE think it not unlikely, that our proposal to pass under searching review the arguments most prominently pushed forward in defence of religious establishments, may be condemned by some as unreasonable, by others as wholly unnecessary, and gratuitously annoying. Human nature, even in its soundest state, is a wayward thing—and often leaps, as if in a sudden fit of insanity, upon the most preposterous conclusions. Seldom, indeed, does conscience assert uncontrolled lordship over the passions—for even when it occupies the throne of the council-chamber, they cluster behind it, and whisper, in the most insinuating tones, their own suggestions. Conscience speaks their decision, fancying, like a fond husband, that it is its own. Some of its utterances, therefore, are sufficiently startling—and, tried by any of the unchanging tests supplied, whether by reason or revelation, discover a strange predominance of infirmity. It would be well, perhaps, for us all, if we were more mindful of this—well if, duly cognisant of our own weakness in this matter, we would resolutely look at our own conscientious convictions from the commanding height of some evangelical principle.

Why, then, should state-churchmen evince the smallest reluctance at having the evidence in support of their favourite system probed to the bottom? Why shrink? Why start away impatiently? Why deprecate discussion? This is not usual in other departments. Where the position is known to be secure, we hail attacks upon it as the likeliest means of making manifest its strength. Yet is it deemed, too commonly, a trespass upon forbidden ground, to subject the defences of an established church to the ordeal of a thorough examination. There seems to prevail a feeling, rather than an avowed opinion, in the minds of those who man its walls, that they who bring the fire of their argument to bear upon it must needs be prompted by an evil and malignant spirit. They fancy that to raise the siege would prove more decisively the presence and the power of a Christian spirit, than to prosecute it with vigour. They can hardly regard themselves justified in joining issue with us. There would seem to be some overwhelming objection to controversy, however courteously conducted, on this subject. Individual judgment, it is true, is allowed by most, to assert its independence; but "the liberty of prophesying" is almost as generally thought to be strained up to the pitch of license, when it proceeds to condemn the compulsory support of Christian institutions.

Now we respectfully submit to the assertors of the establishment principle, that they herein do either themselves or their cause a grievous injury—their cause, by giving rise to a suspicion that it cannot brook investigation—themselves, by suggesting that, on this question, they are unable to preserve the meekness of their temper. They will not surely deny, in the abstract, the obligation of man to painstaking and conscientious inquiry in all matters pertaining to religious faith and practice, nor the advantage reaped, both by the church and the world, from a diligent exercise of it. On no other topic do they need to be reminded, that the prescriptions of ecclesiastical authority are not decisive, and, in conducting their own case against the assumptions of Romanists, they would certainly meet all pleas grounded upon such prescriptions, by moving the court of reason for a writ of *quo warranto*. Is there anything special in their relationship to Dissent to place them above the same liability? What reason can be given why the pretensions of state-churchism should not be sifted with scrutinising care? What harm can come out of it, if that system be based

upon truth? What but permanent and extensive good? The extreme sensitiveness betrayed in reference to this matter somewhat surprises us, we confess—but we are still more startled when that sensitiveness is ascribed to a more than ordinary vitality of conscience. We should rather have looked for pious Churchmen to admit the fault, and to urge in extenuation of it, "This is my infirmity."

An old adage says, "They may laugh who win." We say, and therein we express, we think, the general sense of mankind, "They who urge extraordinary claims, should listen to objections with extraordinary forbearance." When the eels undertake to prove to the cook that her notion, as to the harmlessness of skinning them alive, is founded upon an egregious mistake, they ought not to be silenced with an imperious, "Down, wantons, down!" Churchmen should bear in mind, that the system which they uphold runs a ploughshare right through our common sentiments of natural justice, and brings to bear upon all dissentients a coercive power against which human nature is apt enough to kick. It may be they are in the right, in compelling all, whether they see with them or otherwise, to contribute to the maintenance of their faith and form of worship—but inasmuch as, in doing this, they violate what seems, at first blush, to be a common right of humanity, and trample, in appearance at least, upon that freedom which Christianity charters to all its subjects, they are bound by the strongest obligations to hear what may be advanced in opposition to the claims they prefer. They ought to be the last persons to object to discussion. Their tone of mind ought to be such as might be fitly expressed in some such words as follow:—"Our consciences dictate a course of action in support of the truths we have received, which, we are sensible, considerably interferes with your liberty and convictions. Were your case ours, we should esteem it a hardship. We act in this matter exclusively upon our sense of duty—a duty which, occasionally, it is painful to carry out. But we are most anxious to lay before you our reasons for adopting this extraordinary course. It is possible we have misjudged, in which case we should be inflicting upon you a great wrong. Examine, then, for yourselves. We ask no authority which will not bear the minutest inspection. Sift our reasons to the uttermost—try our conclusions by every legitimate test—show in what particulars you hold our evidence to fail—then, if compelled to admit the validity of our claims, you will render a cheerful acquiescence where else we could only look for repining submission."

Are we unreasonable, then, in requesting, on behalf of Dissenters, a patient hearing? Is it to be expected, ought it to be hoped for, that they should adjourn this controversy *sine die*? If the abettors of the establishment system are right, is it not of the highest importance that the fact should be placed by discussion above dispute? If they are wrong, ought they not, for their own sakes, to be made sensible of it? We who differ with, and suffer from, them, are bound in common charity to endeavour to bring them to an accordance with the mind of Christ as soon and as effectually as possible. Entertaining the views which we hold, we must suppose them not merely chargeable with a serious mistake, but guilty of a great offence. How could we answer it to our consciences to suppress our convictions? How can they, as Christians, call upon us to remain silent, or refuse to listen to our objections to their system? Unable ourselves to answer these inquiries, we shall proceed in our proposed course—nor deem, that in examining the defences of state-churchism, we offend against reason, law, or love.

THE SHORTEST WAY ROUND.

MANY good people are exceedingly prone to *logolatry*. They get hold of a good word, representing a thing good in itself, and then conclude that every object to which that word may be applied, is a good thing. "Union is a good thing—who can doubt it?" Verily, no one. Food is a good thing—are we, therefore, to take it indiscriminately, and without regard to adaptation and degree? Prayer is a good thing—but what would be thought of a man who should bend his knees in the street at noon-day, and should answer an expostulation with, "What! do you say that we ought not to pray?" Even so, union is a good thing; but does it follow that unions are good things? They may be, and may not be. It depends very much upon *terms, times, and circumstances*. "There is a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing." Marriage is honourable in all, yet,

"Choose not alone a proper mate,
But proper time to marry."

We say nothing as to the general principles and policy of the Evangelical Alliance. It is not in our creed or heart, to throw obstacles in the way of good men coming together. We can understand how it may be of advantage in certain respects and in certain ways. Without being blind zealots for unity; believing that the profession and practice of it are very different things; perceiving how the form of it may be advantageously sacrificed to its spirit, as some men, and bodies of men, like fire and water, never agree better than when apart; and separation, as in the case of Abraham and Lot, is needful to avoid strife—we do not wish, or mean to oppose the counsel or conduct that aims at closer intimacy and more frequent fellowship among Christians. "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind"—and act out his persuasion, for us. But if, in so doing, he come across what we believe to be truth, and interfere with its assertion and development, we do not deem ourselves forbidden to vindicate its rights, and defend its authority.

Whether the Evangelical Alliance imply the suppression, or throw impediments in the way of the practical enforcement of voluntarism, is a question we do not entertain. That it need not do so absolutely, we are far from denying. But, it is clear, beyond dispute, that many parties are treating it as if required for its full success the cessation of the Anti-state-church movement, and as if that full success should be purchased at the price of such cessation. With this fact only do we meddle. Active opposition to State-churchism is made, by churchmen, a barrier, real or ostensible only, to the Alliance; and by Dissenters it is regarded as a thing that ought to be abandoned for the sake of churchmen. Both "demand" the abandonment upon this ground. This demand we meet with the respectful but decided declaration, *that it cannot be*. The necessity of the demand, for the particular end in view, we leave to others; the impossibility of its concession is a matter that belongs to us.

How does the case stand? A body of Christians maintain and exercise the right of compelling all others to support their own form of faith and service. The act is, in our view, unjust and unscriptural. We seek to put an end to the evil, to prevent the violation of righteousness and love which it involves. Our attempt to do this is denounced as incompatible with union. Mark the exact state of the matter. It is not the *unchristian exaction* that is denounced, but the *opposition to it*. They who do the wrong insist that it shall not be interfered with as the condition of the fellowship. We say the condition is preposterous. If any condition within the compass of this question be right and reasonable, surely it is the condition that the wrong should cease. And if, instead of abandoning it, it is made necessary that protest and opposition should be abandoned, where does the blame, if there be any, of disunion rest? We have no right to tacitly approve the wrong-doing, and the wrong-doers have no right, nor others for them, to require it of us.

But there is another view of the subject. About eight years ago there commenced an earnest agitation against the corn-laws. That agitation was begun by manufacturers, and was opposed, as it still is, by agriculturalists. The first felt that they were injured for the sake of the last. The last were very wrathful that the first should attempt to deprive them of what they thought a great advantage. There was a schism between the parties: the manufacturers being angry that the agriculturalists should possess what the agriculturalists were angry at the thought of the manufacturers taking away. Suppose that, in these circumstances, some warm friend of social union had addressed the Anti-corn-law League in this way: "Dear brethren, you are engaged in carrying out a principle which, according to the light you have, you cannot but regard as true and important. We agree in thinking free-trade desirable. It is not without inconveniences, and there is something to be said on the other side; but, with our present views, we must regard it as agreeable to reason and justice. But our brethren, the agriculturalists, have come to a different conclusion. Though, in our opinion, they are in error, we should pay respect to their convictions. And are not concord and love between the different classes in the country worthy of earnest pursuit? Though you have the truth, you are not bound to attempt its practical application at this particular time. My counsel is, Suspend the operations of the League which are incompatible with that good understanding and cordial

fellowship between the manufacturers and agriculturalists which all sound patriots ought to sigh for and to seek." What would have been the answer to this appeal? We can imagine that it would have run in this way:—"There can be no objection to the utmost cordiality between all classes of the community. But how is it best to be secured? The suspension of the present agitation will not do it. It might please the agriculturalists, but would it heal the sore of the manufacturers? The most effectual way to promote union is to do away with the cause of disunion. Let free-trade come, and the surest foundation will be laid for good feeling, in the common justice that requires it, and the common prosperity that will flow from it." So say we now. There is no greater impediment to union than the existence of state-churchism. It operates as such in the minds of its advocates, and, for their sakes, in the minds of some of its opponents. "The shortest way round" is to get it done away. The seeking this will, of course, increase the disunion for a time, but the attainment of it will vastly lessen it for ever.

The Anti-state-church agitation cannot cease. The time for it has come. The mind of the country is in a state to invite it. If taken up, not as a sectarian but a national movement, there are ample promises of its being entertained. A great movement is giving it place. The Anti-state-church League will slide into the place of the Anti-corn-law League; and not only will it take its room, but profit by its preparation. The cause is one. State-churchism is protection—monopoly; voluntarism is free-trade. Cobden and Bright have been getting the ground ready for Dissenters; they have been doing more—sowing the seed for them. The arguments for free commerce are, with a superior force, arguments for free Christianity. Men have been learning the A B C of our principles—now is the time for them to begin to read. Now is the time for suspending, not anti-state-church agitation, but all that cannot co-exist with it. Whether the Evangelical Alliance be in that case is not our concern. The "present truth" is independence, not union: if the two are incompatible, they who maintain the first may be contented with His sanction who said, as to his own religion, "I came not to send peace on the earth, but a sword." That sword, however, is the shortest way to a full, and fruitful, and abiding peace.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

SOIRÉE AND PUBLIC MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM.

(Abridged from the *Birmingham Pilot*.)

The British Anti-state-church Association [having resolved to hold a series of soirées and public meetings, in the provinces, in furtherance of the objects of that Institution, Birmingham was fixed upon as the most eligible town to commence with. The members of the general council resident in Birmingham having secured the use of the Town Hall for the 21st inst., announced that the Rev. Dr. Cox, of Hackney, Rev. J. Burnet, of Camberwell, E. Miall, Esq., editor of the *Nonconformist*, and the Rev. J. P. Mursell, of Leicester, would attend as a deputation from the committee in London.

The soirée, accordingly, was held on Wednesday evening; and although the number who took tea together was not large, the attendance, in the course of the evening, increased, until the numbers present were from fifteen hundred to two thousand; and a more attentive audience we never saw congregated within the walls of the magnificent building. After partaking of an excellent tea, prepared and served in the most handsome and satisfactory style, by Mrs. Corbett, of the Temperance Hotel, Paradise-street,

The Rev. T. SWAN moved, and the Rev. J. SIBREE, of Coventry, seconded the motion, that James C. Perry, Esq., take the chair, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman and the guests at the principal table having taken their seats on the platform of the organ gallery, we observed amongst those who supported them, and in different parts of the meeting, the following gentlemen:—The Rev. Thomas Morgan, Rev. Thomas Swan, Rev. J. Allsop, Rev. C. H. Roe, Rev. Mr. Baker, Rev. J. Hammond, Rev. P. Sibree, Rev. J. Sibree (of Coventry), Alderman Room, Councillor Trueman, Councillor Field, George Edmonds, Esq., Wm. Morgan, Esq., Henry Frearson, Esq., Joseph Sturge, Esq., Josiah Pumphrey, Esq., Dr. Smith, Mr. Brook, Mr. J. H. Wilson, Mr. Cox, Charles Sturge, Esq., R. Barlow, Esq., T. H. Morgan, Esq., W. Harrison, Esq., D. T. Rawlinson, Esq., and the whole of the students attending Spring-hill College, except one.

Dr. Cox addressed the meeting in an able speech, chiefly in reply to objections to the Anti-state-church movement, and setting forth its importance. One would really imagine, he said, from the liberal censures which are heaped upon us, that we are going to purchase bayonets and weapons of warfare; and that we came down to Birmingham to make a contract for arms, in order to wage literal war against what we deem to be wrong and erroneous in religion. It is a war; but what is the nature of that war? What are our great guns? Speeches and declarations of the truth [applause]. What are our cannon-balls and our bullets? Tracts on the great principles of religion; and which enforce its principles in all their purity [cheers]. And, if we cannot get into the town of Mansoul, through the ears and the eyes, we will take the scaling ladder, and thus accomplish the object. And what is the scaling ladder but fervent prayer to our great Shaddai? Aggressive! Why, we mean to be aggressive upon ignorance, upon prejudice, upon sin, upon everything hostile to pure re-

ligion. We mean to enlighten and awaken the public mind, and to lead men to think, and reason, and enquire, and "search the scriptures," which will make them "wise unto salvation." Aggressive, indeed! What, I ask, was Christianity when it was first propagated in our world by the "Author and Finisher of our faith?" Did he come to establish his cause by acts of parliament? [cheers]. Did he establish his cause by calling in the aid of the sword and the civil power to sustain his church because it was feeble? Did the Saviour sit still and dogmatise in the schools? or was he a peripatetic philosopher, that walked around and about the borders of the new philosophy? No: "Jesus Christ" went about doing good."

The Rev. J. BURNET, of Camberwell, London, on being called on by the Chairman, said he would follow out the remarks which had been thrown out by his friend who had just sat down, and express his most entire approbation of the statement which had been made—that we are justified in being aggressive:—

But, continued the speaker, I would go a little further, and I would say that we have been shut up to aggression, and have nothing else left for us to do [cheers]. We have been thrust into the field, and they will not let us out of it: we are secured there by the law, and the police, and the courts. They insist that we shall pay them their tithes, and rates, and ministers' money, either out of our own pockets, or out of our furniture [hear, hear]. We are like sheep in a fold; and if we won't pay, we are driven into a narrower field. Why, the silliest sheep in the kingdom would try to leap the fence [cheers]. We are put into this position, and what, then, remains for us but the very aggression of which they complain? But we do not wish to be aggressive against our neighbour's goods, or against our neighbour's pockets; we only oppose ourselves to that evil principle which prevents our neighbours and ourselves from forming a truthful and Christian alliance. The grand partition wall—the bone of contention between Churchmen and Dissenters—is founded on that principle that unites this world with the next in one unholy alliance. Now, we wish to break up that alliance, and to form a better; and if we can do this, you will find the spirit of unity stealing through the ranks of Churchmen, and through the ranks of Dissenters, until at last, in our intercourse with one another, you will be unable to distinguish the one from the other; and there will be found a spirit of true and Catholic Christianity.

After directing attention to the operations of the Anti-state-church Society he concluded by saying:—

Be defenders of it in your different circles. Let me say I adhere to it, because I believe it is intended and calculated to put down a very powerful barrier in the way of the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, both at home and abroad [cheers]. I adhere to this society, because I believe it will enable me to love my brother in the church, and to receive his kind affection in return, without a misunderstanding between us. I adhere to this society, because, above all institutions, it is intended to take away the barrier that has so long separated the people of God in one denomination, and the people of God in another; and I feel that I get nearer to heaven when I come into society that presents me with the church of Christ in its own dignified simplicity, with all its virtue going forth, and with all those indications of internal power which are exhibited in this movement. I adhere to this society, because it enables me, without any compromise of principle, to meet any man, Churchman or Dissenter, and to strive with him for a great national good; the removal of all the obstructions that would separate the Churchman from the Dissenter, or the Dissenter from the Churchman [loud cheers].

D'ARCY IRVINE, Esq., brought before the notice of the meeting the various tracts and publications of the association, and called upon all to aid them, either by pecuniary or other assistance. It was hoped that a register would be made of every congregation, and in this work the services of the ladies would be extremely valuable. The other day, a friend of his, a clergyman, gave it as his opinion that, if the church were to be separated from the state to-morrow, £,000 of the 12,000 clergymen would heartily rejoice at the separation. It was not the poor hard-working clergy with £60 or £70 a year who wanted the connexion, but only the aristocracy of the land, for whose benefit alone the system was continued.

Mr. EDWARD MIALL then addressed the meeting. After referring to the numerous difficulties with which the society, from its commencement, had to encounter, many of which had been overcome, he challenged the most rigid examination into their proceedings and publications:—

I do claim some little credit on behalf of the promoters and conductors of this movement, that they have never betrayed the slightest soreness of feeling [hear, hear], and that after two years' hard and laborious work, they can confidently appeal to their writings, to their speeches, and to their proceedings, and challenge any man of God to lay his finger upon aught that is inconsistent with Christian meekness, with Christian truthfulness, or with Christian love [cheers]. I do not say this in a spirit of vain glory, I am not willing here to indulge a triumph; but I do say seriously, that the time is come when good men are bound to seek for the claims of this institution in its own intrinsic merits, and to base their estimate of it, not upon idle report, but upon its avowed object, and upon its pervading spirit.

He urged at some length the importance of the Anti-state-church movement at home, and especially in its influence upon the evangelical party in the Church of England, and then related the following fact in illustration of the evil-working of the establishment principle in the colonies:—

But a few years ago, the natives of New Zealand, who were converted—whether converted by the Church Missionary Society, a voluntary society, and to which we cannot object—or whether converted by the Wesleyan Methodists—dwelt together in unity. All those who professed Christianity shook each other by the hand, and acknowledged fraternal fellowship. The villages were then comparatively peaceful. A bishop is sent out; and, of course, he must maintain something like exclusive Episcopal jurisdiction. He tells them that the baptism hitherto performed by the Wesleyan Methodists, although "so far so good," could hardly be regarded as sufficient to ensure salvation; that the natives who were converted must be baptized by consecrated hands; and that the form of the cross must be made on the forehead. What is the consequence? The natives, who are an intelligent and a very inquiring race, always discussing subjects of some kind or other, have taken up this subject, and discussed it with the utmost

warmth and zeal—a warmth and zeal, perhaps, in an inverse proportion to their knowledge of Christianity; and it has gone to such extreme lengths that, through the villages, right down the middle of some of the streets, have been built walls ten feet high, in order to separate between those who signed by the Episcopal cross, and those who have been baptized by the Wesleyan Methodists [cries of "Shame"]. Now of what use is it for us to be subscribing our money at home to send the gospel abroad, if we likewise permit that mischief to be going on at home which sends abroad the seeds of evil to counteract all that we do [applause]? How is it men will not see that the very mode of extending true Christianity is to be faithful at home, and to let all our sympathies go out towards our brethren abroad? We cannot do the one if we neglect the other; and those men who overlook the obligation placed upon them by God in their own country, manifest, I fear, something like a want of real sympathy with truth, and with those to whom they are professing to send the truth. Now I would commend these thoughts to the minds of those who are yet wavering; I would just ask them whether there is not some weight in them?

The Rev. T. SWAN proposed the following resolution:—

That in the judgment of this meeting, the union of the church with the state is alike opposed to the principles and interest of civil and religious freedom, and therefore ought to be annulled; that the British Anti-state-church Association is well adapted to promote this end; and consequently deserves the warmest support and encouragement of every friend of Christian truth and social happiness.

That resolution most perfectly embodied his view, and therefore he had great pleasure in proposing it for adoption; as he believed the connexion of the state with the church was, and always had been, most fatally injurious to the souls of men, intercepting the rays of Divine truth, and blinding men to their true interests; and it was also most derogatory to the Great Head of the church, who had declared, that "the government was upon his shoulders, and his glory he would not give unto another." Dr. Wardlaw, in Carr's-lane pulpit, in speaking upon this question, recommended, that for the motto—"Agitate, agitate, agitate," should be substituted the words,—"Enlighten, enlighten, enlighten" [applause]. This was the course the Anti-state-church Association were pursuing; and he was confident that, by its continuance, they would eventually achieve "the consummation most devoutly to be wished."

Mr. SIBREE, of Coventry, seconded the resolution; and in doing so observed, that if he were to make any lengthened speech at that time of the evening, he should deserve to be "sent to Coventry," from whence he had come that evening [laughter]. He continued:—

This society we are advocating to-night is "the Evangelical Alliance;" and the British Anti-state-church Association is far more likely to bring about Christian union than that institution which bears the name of "the Evangelical Alliance" [loud cheers]. The great principle on which this association is founded is, "that in matters of religion man is responsible to God alone; that all legislation by secular governments in the affairs of religion is an encroachment upon the rights of man, and an invasion of the prerogatives of God; and that the application by law of the resources of the state to the maintenance of any form or forms of religious worship and instruction is contrary to reason, hostile to human liberty, and directly opposed to the word of God." But this principle is by no means a new thing in the earth. About twelve years ago, I had the pleasure of attending an anti-state-church meeting, at the City of London Tavern, and I will just read a copy of the first resolution that was passed at that meeting. "Resolved,—That this meeting recognises the great and leading principle of full and complete separation of church and state, as the true basis on which equal rights and justice can be secured to all classes of his Majesty's subjects." And I hope I shall give no offence to any one, for that is not my design, if I remind this meeting, that that resolution was moved by the Rev. John Angell James, of Birmingham [loud cheers], and seconded by Col. Addison, of Chilton Hall, near Sudbury. It is matter of congratulation that this Association originated in part with one of the respected ministers of the town of Birmingham [A voice—"He's not here now, though."]

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Rev. T. MORGAN proposed, and the Rev. C. H. ROE seconded, a resolution of thanks to Mr. Burnet, and the other gentlemen from a distance who had attended that meeting. The resolution was passed unanimously.

Mr. BURNET briefly responded, and in doing so observed, that from the spirit manifested at that meeting, they should henceforth rank Birmingham as one of the supporting pillars of the British Anti-state-church Association [applause].

The thanks of the meeting were then given to the Chairman, on the motion of Mr. SWAN, and seconded by Mr. MORGAN; and, after having been briefly acknowledged, the meeting separated.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION TEA MEETING AT COVENTRY.—A public tea meeting took place at St. Mary's Hall, last (Thursday) evening, with a view of explaining the objects and extending the operations of the British Anti-state-church Association. The Rev. J. Sibree, on being called to the chair, said he much regretted the position in which the meeting had placed him, because he should have been glad to have seen his friend, Mr. Cash, occupying the place. Dr. Cox, with great force, urged that a State religion was incompatible with Christian liberty, and insisted that, if once allowed as a principle, then Turkey or China, or any ruling power, might make any provision they thought well in the shape of religion, and impose it on their people. The Rev. E. H. Delf moved—

"That, in the judgment of this meeting, the union of the church with the state is alike opposed to the principles and interests of civil and religious freedom, and, therefore, ought to be annulled. That the British Anti-state-church Association is well adapted to promote the objects, and, consequently, deserves the warmest support and encouragement of every friend to Christian and social happiness."

which was seconded by Mr. Lewitt. Mr. Miall dwelt at great length on the propriety of the object for which the meeting was assembled, and the utility of the association they were endeavouring to extend.—*Coventry Herald*.

RELIGION IN GERMANY.*

(By a Member of the Universities of Bonn and Berlin.)

A POSITIVE indifference to religion is hardly anywhere to be found in Germany. On the one hand, the doctrines of Hegel, and others, are already bearing the bitter fruits of a more or less palpable atheism, which would celebrate the apotheosis of *Humanity* upon the ruins of Christianity; on the other, the truly religious are everywhere divided between liberal and hierarchical tendencies in regard to the constitution and government of the church, and between the corresponding tendencies—freedom of inquiry on the one hand, and strict adherence to creeds on the other—in regard to doctrines; while in the midst, between the avowed enemies of religion and its devoted friends, stand the subtle Rationalists of the present day, the haughty "*Licht-freunde*," with their super-sublimated Christianity. And it is difficult to distinguish between the genuine workings of the religious consciousness, as acted upon by the spirit of the gospel, the spirit of Christ, and the workings of mere philosophical and political theories, to which the religious consciousness contributes only, as it were, the raw material of doctrine (and this but in part), without being itself directly and really active. Rationalism has so penetrated the literary and educated world of Germany, that every movement with regard to religion, or matters of religion, seems to have its *rationalistic side*; and this circumstance exposes many efforts to suspicion, the object of which, considered in itself, is altogether good. Thus, the Evangelical Church of Prussia is essentially a *state-hierarchy*; yet it contains a popular element, which strives continually to develop itself. This effort is instinctively religious on the part of the religious; but, with many others, it is rather *political* than religious in its character, and combined with a sceptical tendency; and so it has got a bad name. Even so with regard to creeds. Every clergyman is obliged to swear, at his ordination, that he believes (what is called) the Apostles' Creed, together with the Nicene and Athanasian Confessions. A cry has been raised, "The Evangelical Church of Prussia must have a new confession of faith!" It is but fair to suppose that, in many instances, this cry expresses a truly religious feeling, that the imposition of these creeds invades the fundamental principle of Protestantism—the right of private judgment; but then, the "*Licht-freunde*" have used the cry to justify their dissimulation—perjury, one might venture to say—and, therefore, it is suspected. The Catholic separatists are, as yet, wholly liberal in their views of Church-government; but they are already divided on the question of *creeds*. The confession formed and adopted at the Leipzig Council, in March, 1845,—from four to six months after the origin of the sect—was very brief; indeed, almost meagre. Nevertheless, it has been almost universally adopted by the individual churches—*congregations*, one ought to say, according to their views; for they are Independent in this respect, as well as in some others, since every congregation is at liberty to work out the Leipzig Confession to any length it pleases. Czerski and his people, with about half-a-dozen other pastors and congregations, have expressed, by protest, their dissatisfaction with this imperfect acknowledgment of what they regard as apostolical doctrine, and have separated themselves from Ronge and the main body of German Catholics, under the name of Christian or Protestant Catholics, taking the so-called Apostolical and Nicene symbols, as their basis of union. They hold a portion of Pope Pius's creed into the bargain. Attempts have been made to unite the two bodies again; whether a re-union will be the result, is doubtful. One is constrained to believe that the *Rationalist* element in the German Catholic agitation is comparatively *strong*, and that, to a great extent, the good at present effected by it, is merely indirect and preparatory: a great religious and constitutional struggle, such as we have happily, to a considerable extent, *accomplished*, lies before the German nation. Many of its princes are just as unwilling to understand and to recognise the principles of German liberty, as our rulers of the Tudor and Stuart dynasties were. Laughter and indignation contend for the mastery, as one reads, from time to time, of the petty, the utterly unworthy and contemptible restrictions applied by one and another of these Lackland-potestates to the native right of every man, not merely to *think* for himself, but to *speak* to his fellows, and to God. The King of Prussia is an honourable exception; but he is not, in any way, too liberally inclined,—quite the contrary. And since he went to his Rhine dominions, to receive our Queen, he has been less disposed to favour the German Catholics, than before. The German Liberals attribute this to the machinations of the Austrian Jesuit, and Machiavel, Metternich, whom they regard as the *жизогамы*, the evil genius of Germany.

CHREPWOW.—A CHURCH-RATE SEIZURE.—On Monday Jan 12th, Constable Magill, and a man to assist him, entered the house of Mr. Rees, Independent minister of this town, and levied distress on his goods for two church-rates, five shillings each, claimed by Messrs. Thomas and Wason, churchwardens. Mr. Rees said he had nothing to say respecting the validity or legality of the rates, but as a conscientious Dissenter, objecting to all compulsory exactions for the support of religion, he could not pay the demand. The constable and his man removed to a neighbouring public-house a table, a sofa, and a weather-glass, which cost Mr. Rees upwards of £5. Saturday, 17th inst., the goods were disposed of by auction, at the White Lion, four or five persons being present, for £1 19s. 9d. The business being over, the following account was presented:—

Rates	10 0	Produce of Sale—	
Costs	10 6	Sofa	1 0 0
Levy	3 0	Weatherglass	0 12 0
Warrant	2 6	Table	0 7 9
Man in possession..	15 0		
	£2 1 0		£1 19 9

In reply to the inquiry why the sale was not made public, the constable said, that there was a very strong feeling in the town against the thing altogether; and such an occurrence had never before taken place in this town in the memory of man. The seizure is said to have been *altogether* the vicar's work, and that the late vicar (now of Shirenewton) was very sorry that Mr. Rees should be troubled at all. The new vicar, we are told, only wanted to make an example of a Dissenting minister first, and then he would "be down" upon many more. "O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united," &c. "The man in possession" told Mrs. Rees that he had only taken 2s. 6d. of the "possession" money; and that he could not, in conscience, take any more from such kind neighbours as Mr. and Mrs. Rees had been to him. Who has the money, then?—From a Correspondent.

THE POOR MAN'S CHURCH.—The salaries of the chief officers of the Crown, the chief ministers of the state, and the judges of the land, are much below those of several of the bishops, while all the latter are high in proportion to the duties imposed upon them.

The *British Churchman* denounces clergymen of the Church of England, who take part in the "Evangelical Alliance," as consorting with "heretics and schismatics," and stoutly rates the bishops, him of London in particular, for not interfering.

THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD has consented to ordain such pious laymen as shall have laboured two years, satisfactorily, in the capacity of district visitor or scripture reader, under the direction of an incumbent of a parish. The Bishop of Winchester, it is said, has adopted a similar plan.

THE NOTTINGHAM CHURCH TRACTS are issued by some of the church party, probably of the Tractarian school, every Saturday for the price of one penny. One of these tracts has fallen into our hands, and is a striking instance of the intolerable bigotry advocated by many of the supporters of the state church, and with which they would, if possible, imbue the minds of the poor. Nothing advanced in these tracts, we are told, "must be understood as aimed in an uncharitable spirit at any class of persons." Closely following on this sentence, the writer declares "that Dissent is a grievous sin in the sight of Almighty God," and to prove that it is so he arranges in parallel columns, and, by way of contrast, a description of the several Dissenting sects, with passages from Scripture, ingeniously arranged, so that the latter may appear to condemn the former. Even the most ignorant, we should suppose, will be scarcely deceived by such gross misrepresentations as are contained in this little publication; nevertheless, it proves that, if Dissenters do not think it worth their while to disseminate their principles, the clergy are active enough in endeavours to imbue the poor with their own intolerance.

THE CHRISTIANITY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT.—For four years now the Paisley Presbytery have had the church at Barrhead kept with shut doors, and made to go to waste, as it must, without benefiting them in the smallest; and that merely to prevent the people, who, in a great measure, built and paid it, from worshipping therein in the same God whom they of the Establishment profess to serve. All the other *quoad sacra* churches that have been put up within the bounds of the Paisley Presbytery, are to be taken possession of for the same purpose; and what is more, the Gaelic chapel here, which was built so far back as 1793, and which has been regularly employed for dispensing the ordinances of religion to the Gaelic population since that time, is also about to be laid hold of by the Presbytery and shut up, as another monument of their vindictiveness and the oppression they would exercise if they had the power.—*Glasgow Saturday Post*.

DEPRIVATION BY THE DEAN OF CHRIST CHURCH.—We hear, on good authority, that the Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, has deprived the Rev. Thomas Edward Morris, M.A., student of Christ Church and tutor, of his tutorship in that college. Mr. Morris is brother of the Mr. Morris, of Exeter College, who has just gone over to the Romish Church. The Dean, it is said, being anxious to protect the young men of the college from Romanising influences, called on Mr. Morris to sign the thirty-nine articles, which Mr. Morris said he had lately done in the sense of Tract No. 90. Hence the deprivation alluded to.—*Times*.

THE CAMBRIDGE CHURCH-RATE CASE.—It will be remembered that at the Cambridge Assizes in March last, Mr. Bidwell, a poor man in that town, was indicted for contempt of a magistrate's warrant for refusing to pay a church rate. The case was adjourned to the next term; the term came, but no notice was given. Mr. B.'s bail was enlarged till the last assizes. Nothing was then heard of the affair, so that he is now free from legal restraint. The Cambridge Anti-church-rate Society desire to thank those friends of religious liberty who have assisted them in successfully resisting this new attempt to infringe upon the rights of Dissenters.

PONTYPOOL.—The church-rate party in this place continue in their career of spoliation. They have furnished themselves with an auctioneer from Usk, a town many miles distant from Pontypool. The buyers are few: one or two low individuals from the town, and three or four others, apparently specially engaged for the occasion, but unknown in the town. Ministers and their flocks are involved in the common ruin. Mrs. Church is determined to visit them with her high displeasure; but they nobly suffer. All honour to the Pontypool Dissenters!

A NEW DAY AND SUNDAY school was opened at Newton-le-Willows, Lancashire, on the 7th inst., in connexion with the church under the pastoral care of Mr. R. Massie.

THE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT.

OPENING OF THE SESSION.

Unusual interest being felt in the opening of this session, large crowds collected in the line of the procession from Buckingham Palace to the Houses of Parliament on Thursday; the curious being undeterred by the lowering aspect of the morning. When the procession left the Palace, however, about half-past one o'clock, there was a break in the weather. The crowd were eager to see the Queen; but the cheering was neither loud nor general. A coincidence was observed. At the corner of Bridge-street, one of the spectators called out "No monopoly!" At that moment her Majesty turned her head, and, while bowing, smiled. The gracious movement was instantly noticed, and a hundred voices united in the shout of "God save the Queen!"

The House of Lords was crammed in the usual way with a brilliant assemblage of Peers and ladies in their varied dresses, of Peers in their robes, military officers and diplomatic persons in uniform. The Duke of Cambridge and Prince George were present. A few minutes before two o'clock, cannon announced the approach of the Queen; and her Majesty entered the House, leaning on the arm of Prince Albert, and surrounded by the great Officers of State.

The Queen being seated on the throne, and the Commons having been summoned to the bar, her Majesty read the following Speech—

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

It gives me great satisfaction again to meet you in Parliament, and to have the opportunity of recurring to your assistance and advice.

I continue to receive from my allies, and from all other foreign powers, the strongest assurances of their desire to cultivate the most friendly relations with this country.

I rejoice that in concert with the Emperor of Russia, and through the success of our joint mediation, I have been enabled to adjust the differences which had long prevailed between the Ottoman Porte and the King of Persia, and had seriously endangered the tranquillity of the East.

For several years a desolating and sanguinary warfare has afflicted the states of the Rio de la Plata. The commerce of all nations has been interrupted, and acts of barbarity have been committed unknown to the practice of a civilised people. In conjunction with the King of the French, I am endeavouring, to effect the pacification of those states.

The convention concluded with France in the course of the last year for the more effectual suppression of the slave-trade, is about to be carried into immediate execution by the active co-operation of the Powers on the Coast of Africa.

It is my desire that our present union, and the good understanding which so happily exists between us may always be employed to promote the interests of humanity, and to secure the peace of the world.

I regret that the conflicting claims of Great Britain and the United States, in respect to the territory on the North-western Coast of America, although they have been made the subject of repeated negotiation, still remain unsettled.

You may be assured that no effort, consistent with national honour, shall be wanting on my part to bring this question to an early and peaceful termination.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

The Estimates for the year will be laid before you at an early period.

Although I am deeply sensible of the importance of enforcing economy in all branches of the expenditure, yet I have been compelled, by a due regard to the exigencies of the public service and to the state of our naval and military establishments, to propose some increase in the Estimates which provide for their efficiency.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have observed with deep regret the very frequent instances in which the crime of deliberate assassination has been, of late, committed in Ireland. It will be your duty to consider whether any measures can be devised calculated to give increased protection to life, and to bring to justice the perpetrators of so dreadful a crime.

I have to lament that, in consequence of the failure of the potato crop in several parts of the United Kingdom, there will be a deficient supply of an article of food which forms the chief subsistence of great numbers of my people. The disease by which the plant has been affected has prevailed to the greatest extent in Ireland.

I have adopted all such precautions as it was in my power to adopt for the purpose of alleviating the sufferings which may be caused by this calamity, and I shall confidently rely on your co-operation in devising such other means for effecting the same benevolent purpose as may require the sanction of the Legislature.

I have had great satisfaction in giving my assent to the measures which you have presented to me from time to time, calculated to extend commerce, and to stimulate domestic skill and industry, by the repeal of prohibitory, and the relaxation of protective, duties.

The prosperous state of the revenue, the increased demand for labour, and the general improvement which has taken place in the internal condition of the country, are strong testimonies in favour of the course you have pursued.

I recommend you take into your early consideration, whether the principles on which you have acted may not, with advantage, be yet more extensively applied, and whether it may not be in your power, after a careful review of the existing duties upon many articles, the produce or manufacture of other countries, to make such further reductions and remissions as may tend to ensure the continuance of the great benefits to which I have adverted, and, by enlarging our commercial intercourse, to strengthen the bonds of amity with foreign Powers.

Any measures which you may adopt for effecting these great objects will, I am convinced, be accompanied by such precautions as shall prevent permanent loss to the revenue, or injurious results to any of the great interests of the country.

I have full reliance on your just and dispassionate consideration of matters so deeply affecting the public welfare.

It is my earnest prayer that, with the blessing of Divine Providence on your counsels, you may be enabled to promote friendly feelings between different classes of my subjects, provide additional security for the continuance of peace, and to maintain contentment and happiness at home, by increasing the comforts and bettering the condition of the great body of my people.

The Queen and Prince Albert retired as they came; and both Houses adjourned for a short time.

MINISTERIAL EXPLANATIONS AND PLANS.

The House of Commons re-assembled at a quarter to

* This article was excluded from our last number by a press of other matter.

four o'clock. The Speaker read the speech, and some other smaller matters were disposed of; after which, Sir ROBERT PEEL made the following announcement:—

"Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to give notice, that I propose, on Monday next, to move for the appointment of a Committee to consider the mode in which this House shall deal with the Railway Bill, proposed to be submitted to it in the present session.

"I also propose, Sir, on Tuesday next, to make, in Committee of the whole House, a statement as to the intention of her Majesty's Government with respect to the commercial policy of the country and the Corn-laws."

LORD FRANCIS EGERTON rose to move the address, in answer to the Royal speech. He reminded the House that, *twenty years ago*, he had, under the auspices of Mr. Canning, occupied a similar position; and this reminiscence led him to his chief topic—that *his opinions on the Corn-laws have undergone an entire alteration*. A burst of cheering from the crowded opposition benches was not re-echoed from the ministerial side of the House; the "great party" received so important an intimation in blank and solemn silence. Then the noble lord went on to advocate the views of the Anti-corn-law League—*emphatically intimating*, that if he did not concur, *without qualification*, in the recommendation contained in the Royal speech, to re-consider the corn-laws, he would not occupy his present position. He closed his remarkable speech by imploring the House to bring about a "*full, satisfactory, and final settlement of the corn-law question!*"

MR. BECKETT DENISON seconded the address, remarking that he occupied that prominent position in consequence of being the single county representative of the largest constituency in the kingdom, who were waiting with much anxiety from the Queen's speech, and with still more anxiety for a statement from Ministers, of the measures they intended to bring forward. He noticed the fact that, though Sir Robert Peel had repealed or reduced duties, during the last three or four years, to the extent of between four and five millions, yet that amount had been nearly compensated by the returns upon increased compensation. This, to him, was not merely a "great" but a "stupendous" fact, and experience drove him to the conviction that the policy of reduction was just and safe, though he urged caution in its more extensive application, as it was not expedient that any interest should be injured for the benefit of others. He asked for no information; he wanted none, as he had confidence in her Majesty's Government.

SIR ROBERT PEEL now rose, and the full gaze and attention of the crowded House were concentrated upon him. His speech was the most remarkable thing that has occurred in the history of free-trade debate, not for its novelty, but its *specialty*. The accounts which the newspapers furnished last year of the causes which had rendered so many Cabinet meetings necessary, have turned out, from Sir Robert Peel's own account, to have been substantially correct. The mysterious and universal blight in the potatoes was the immediate and proximate cause of all those Cabinet consultations. But Sir Robert Peel said that it would be unfair to make that cause occupy the prominent place. The laws which regulate the importation of food were the primary, the grand subject of the deliberations of a reluctant Cabinet. *On the question of the corn-law his opinion had undergone a complete change!* This announcement was received with triumphant cheering from the Opposition benches, with profound silence from the Ministerial. Then the Prime Minister proceeded, with great ability, to show that all the grounds on which "Protection to Native Industry" was advocated, had proved to be *wholly untenable*. Deliberately adopting the speeches of Mr. Villiers as his model, he went on, as if he were about to conclude with a motion for the immediate and total abolition of the corn-law. Protection was not a labourer's question; for during the last three years, prices had been low, and food abundant; and during that period the working classes had been better off than during the preceding three years. High prices did not produce high wages nor *vice versa*. In the last three years, with low prices and abundance of food, wages were comparatively high, and labour was in demand; in the three years preceding, with high prices and scarcity, wages were low and employment was scarce. Experience thus proved that wages were ruled by abundance of capital and demand for labour, and did not vary with the price of provisions. Again, increased freedom of trade was favourable to the prosperity of our commerce. In three scarce and dear years, namely from 1839 to 1841, our foreign exports fell off from fifty-three millions in value to forty-seven millions. But in three years of reduction of duties and low prices, namely, from 1842 to 1844, the value of our exports rose from forty-seven millions to fifty-eight millions. Even deducting the amount of the China trade, a similar result was shown. Nor was the reduction in the Customs' duties unfavourable to the revenue. In 1842, there was an estimated loss of a million and a half; in 1843, a smaller one of two hundred and seventy-three thousand pounds; but, in 1845, there was a reduction, at an estimated loss to the revenue, of no less than two millions and a half. The total amount of the various reductions effected in three years exceeded four millions sterling; and many of the duties were totally abolished; the loss, therefore, not being compensated by any increased consumption. Had four millions been lost to the revenue? He believed that, on the 5th of April next, the revenue would be found to be more buoyant than ever. But there was a higher test. Criminal statistics showed a connexion between increase and decrease of crime, and a declining or prosperous state of the country. In 1843, there had been a decrease of crime to the extent of five and a half per cent.; in 1844, of no less than ten per cent.; in 1845, of five and a half per cent.; and the decrease last year was especially marked in all the great manufacturing districts. Thus, during the time that they have been engaged in reducing protective duties—in other words, *gradually destroying protection to native industry*—the interests of the labouring classes, of commerce and of morality had been promoted; and it was impossible to resist the inevitable conclusion, that relaxation of protection was favourable to all the social relations and concerns of the country. Nor was

relaxation unfavourable to native industry, however much it might hitherto have relied on protection. Flax was a striking instance in point. Foreign flax was now freely imported; yet, in the face of a rapidly increasing amount of foreign importation, the price of flax was higher. Foreign cattle was another instance. They all remembered the predictions of ruin in 1842, when prohibition was removed, and foreign cattle were admitted at a small fixed duty—predictions which created an unfounded though temporary panic. What was the case now? In the face of a rapidly-augmenting importation of foreign cattle, sheep, and swine, prices had not been affected, and the contracts for the supply of provisions were now nearly double what they were even in 1844. Nay, on the subject of lard, about which there was so much alarm last year (loud laughter), with an importation running up from a nominal amount to eighty thousand hundred weight, prices had risen from 48s. to 62s. Another example was afforded by wool. The total abolition of the duty has been followed by a largely augmented importation, and a rapidly increasing price; as he showed by giving the quotations for several years. In the face of all these facts—the advancement of the comforts of the working classes, the diminution of crime, the improvement even of the public health, increase of trade, and an advance in price concurrent with an increase in importation, he felt he could no longer stand up in the House of Commons as the advocate of protection. It would be impossible for him, with these convictions on his mind, any longer to meet the annual motion of Mr. Villiers with a direct negative. The change in his views had been brought about by observation and experience; and he now frankly stated to his usual supporters that he could no longer defend the corn-laws. He could have wished that the settlement of the question had been deferred to another Parliament; but the sudden and mysterious blight in the potatoes—the food in Ireland of four millions of people—rendered necessary immediate action. [Here the Premier read copious extracts from the mass of communications which had been forwarded to the Government on the subject; mentioned the appointment of the Government commission of inquiry; and detailed the proceedings of the Cabinet meetings assembled from time to time to consider the subject.] His own wish was, either at once to open the ports by an order in council, of which he was ready to take the responsibility, or else to call Parliament together. But at the same time he felt that, though a temporary opening of the ports was not essentially connected with a consideration of the corn-law, yet that it must, on the present occasion, be necessarily involved. His propositions were opposed by his colleagues in the Cabinet; Lord Stanley especially considering, that there was much exaggeration in the alleged failure of the potato and grain crops. Meantime, agitation increased; and though he might have evaded responsibility, under the fact of his colleagues having overruled his opinions, he felt it impossible to continue at the head of the Government with the strong convictions he entertained of an impending danger, and the necessity for meeting it. *His position also was changed by the publication of Lord John Russell's letter.* Any movement after it would be misinterpreted; and feeling that he could not bring the matter to a successful issue without the support of a united Cabinet, he determined to place his resignation in the hands of her Majesty. Lord John Russell was sent for; and he (Sir Robert Peel) promised that, in his private capacity, he would give the noble lord all the aid in his power to effect a settlement of the question. The noble lord having failed in his endeavours to form an Administration, the Queen asked him if he persisted in his resignation. He replied, no; as the noble lord had not succeeded, he would resume the government, and endeavour to bring his colleagues into his views. He had given notice of his intention to bring the subject generally before the House, and would not, therefore, anticipate discussion. But he trusted that he had shown, that his motives were honourable. He was charged with "treason" to agriculture. It would, indeed, be "treason" to agriculture to suffer it to incur the odium of so great a calamity as a failure in the sustenance of the people; to call upon the House to vote money to purchase oats, and refuse to ask them to make any relaxation in the laws which restricted supply. He would not touch the existing law on any slight pretence; as, for instance, the introduction of Indian corn, which was urged as a boon to the agriculturists. He concluded by vindicating, with much energy, his entire independence:—

The conduct of Government is an arduous and a difficult undertaking. I may, without irreverence, be permitted to say, that, like our physical frame, our ancient constitution is "*fearfully and wonderfully made*;" that it is no easy task to insure the harmonious and united action of monarchy, aristocracy, and a reformed House of Commons. These are the objects which we have attempted to accomplish, and I cannot think they are inconsistent with a pure and enlarged conservatism [hear, hear]. Power for such objects is really valuable; but for my own part I can say with perfect truth that, even for these objects, I do not covet it [hear, hear]. It is a burden far above my physical, infinitely above my intellectual strength. The relief from it with honour would be a favour, and not a punishment. [cheers]. But while honour and a sense of public duty require it, I do not shrink from office. I am ready to incur its responsibilities, to bear its sacrifices, to confront its honourable perils; but I will not retain it with mutilated power and shackled authority [cheers]. I will not stand at the helm during the tempestuous night, if that helm is not allowed freely to traverse. I will not undertake to direct the course of the vessel by observations taken in the year 1842 [loud cheers]. I will reserve to myself the unfettered power of judging what will be for the public interest. I do not desire to be the Minister of England; but while I am Minister of England I will hold office by no servile tenure [loud cheers]; I will hold office unshackled by any other obligation than that of consulting the public interests, and providing for the public safety. [The right hon. gentleman sat down amidst loud and continued cheering.]

LORD JOHN RUSSELL, after stating that he had applied for and received the permission of the Crown to make known his share in the recent transactions, proceeded to explain the circumstances out of which originated his celebrated letter. In his speech at Edinburgh, on being presented with the freedom of the city, he avoided

the corn-law question; and the Lord Provost expressed his regret at the omission. He replied that he had strong convictions on the subject, but abstained from stating them, lest it might embarrass the course of the executive. But when the public prints informed him that the Cabinet had met and had separated, without adopting measures to meet the emergency, he then, under a strong sense of public duty, put forth his views. People of low minds termed his letter "an advertisement for office." Nothing was further from his thoughts. When summoned by the Queen, his first determination was respectfully to decline the task offered to him; for, looking to the numerical force of the party with which he was connected in the House of Commons, and recollecting that even when they had a majority, their motives were misrepresented, and their measures obstructed, he saw the great difficulties and dangers of the attempt. But his views were changed, when the Queen placed in his hands a paper, drawn up by Sir Robert Peel, in which he assigned his reasons for resigning, and proffered his assistance, in his private capacity, to his successor. He then felt it his duty to consult with his friends; and after much anxious deliberation, it was felt that they would be justified in encountering great risks for the sake of such an object as the settlement of the corn-laws. His plan was as follows:—

The grounds on which, in the letter to which the right hon. baronet has referred, I stated my opinion that the corn-laws ought to be settled, were, first, that the proposal of any duty at present, *without a provision for its extinction in a short period*, would only prolong a contest, already sufficiently fruitful of animosity and discontent [hear]. I stated also that neither the Government nor the legislature could ever regulate the corn markets with the benefit that would result from entire free-trade; but I also said, let the Ministers propose such a revision of taxation as would in their opinions render the public burdens more just and equal, and let them add any other regulation which a cautious and scrupulous forbearance might suggest. Those were the general principles on which I proposed the consideration of the question as to the corn-laws.

[Lord John then read copies of correspondence with her Majesty, in which he had stated his acquiescence in Sir Robert Peel's propositions of an immediate temporary opening of the ports, to be followed by a repeal of the corn-laws, but in which he demurred to a compensation to the landed interest, as carrying with it advantages more apparent than real.] He undertook the task of forming an administration on the principle of carrying out commercial freedom; though conscious that, even with the support of Sir Robert Peel, many who would support his plans, would oppose similar ones proceeding from them. In the course of attempting to construct an administration, an insuperable objection arose in the mind of one of his proposed colleagues, Earl Grey, for whom he had a high esteem, admiring his courage and his honesty. Under ordinary circumstances, he could have afforded to have gone on, even without his aid; but, looking at the difficulties with which he was surrounded, and the necessity for united action on the part of all with whom he was associated, he felt compelled to resign his undertaking. In the letter to her Majesty, communicating his intention to resign, he said:—

Lord John Russell would have formed his Ministry on the basis of a complete free-trade in corn, to be established at once, without gradation or delay. He would have accompanied that proposal with measures of relief to a considerable extent of the occupiers of land from the burdens to which they are subjected. But he will be little disposed to insist, as a member of Parliament, on what may seem to your Majesty's advisers an impracticable course. The country requires, above all things, an early and peaceable settlement of a question which, if not settled, may, in an adverse state of affairs, cause a fearful convulsion.

He was exceedingly sorry at not having been able to overcome the objections of Lord Grey; it was due to him to state, that his objections were not of a personal nature, but originated in his sense of public duty. As to the corn-laws, Lord John Russell expressed his surprise at seeing it alleged at protection meetings, that the danger of scarcity had been exaggerated, and that, therefore, the protecting laws should remain untouched. Did those who used such language never carry their thoughts forward? Was there any one who had watched events that would say the law of 1842 was sufficient of itself to provide for the food of the people in 1846? The House had just heard what the author of that law had stated as the result of his observation and experience. As regarded Ireland, Lord John remarked, that he entertained the hope, had he succeeded in removing the restrictive duties on corn and various manufactures, of being able to propose a comprehensive scheme which would have laid the foundation of future peace in that country. Allusion had been made in the Queen's speech to the necessity of measures to meet the murderous outrages which prevailed; and he should be ready to support measures calculated to suppress such crimes. He was sorry to say, however, that he did not think that anything had been done by the present Government to establish that peace, or procure for England that affection which were so much to be desired. Lord John concluded by stating, that whether in office or out of office, he should be ready to give his hearty assent to measures calculated to benefit the country, without reference to the proposer.

MR. D'ISRAELI stood forth to protest against Sir Robert Peel's course, in the name of protection. He taunted the Premier with the apologetical speech he had just delivered. What could be thought of a statesman who, having served under four sovereigns, came forward and declared, that after an observation of three years he had found it necessary to change his convictions on a subject which must have presented itself for more than twenty years to his notice? He found it difficult to find a parallel case; but he would mention one incident as being somewhat in point:—

I remember when that great struggle was taking place when the existence of the Turkish empire was at stake, the Sultan of that day—a man of great energy and fertile resources—determined to make a last effort to maintain his empire, fitted out an immense armament. It consisted of many of the finest ships that were ever built; the crews were picked; the officers were chosen and selected with the

greatest care, and were rewarded before they fought. Such an armament had never left the Dardanelles, as the gallant Admiral opposite (Sir Charles Napier) well knows, since the days of Soliman the Great. The Sultan embraced the Admiral; all the Muftis prayed for the success of the expedition, as the Muftis in England prayed for success at the last general election. Away went the armament to battle; and what was the consternation of the Sultan when the Lord High Admiral steered at once into the enemy's port. The Lord High Admiral in that instance was much misrepresented; he too was called a traitor. But he vindicated his conduct, saying, "The only reason for my acceptance of the headship was, that I might terminate the contest by betraying my master." And these reasons, offered by a man of great plausibility, and of great powers of discussion, had their effect. This man, I believe, is at this moment First Lord of the Admiralty at Constantinople, under the new reign.

[All this, and many other passages in Mr. D'Israeli's speech, provoked frequent laughter].

He concluded with an appeal to Members to adhere to their principles, and by this means maintain the integrity of public men.

Lord NORTHLAND protested, in the name of Ireland, against the repeal of the corn-laws.

Mr. MILES approved of allowing the Address to pass without an amendment, but not of the Ministerial plans. He had listened with surprise and regret to the speech of Sir Robert Peel; and he would ask, whether those who were returned in 1841 to support the Premier in a particular line of policy ought now to abandon that policy, and place themselves on the lowest seat of ignominy? Was everything to be sacrificed at the foot of this idol? The corn-law of 1842 had exceeded the expectation of its framers, and the agriculturists had a right to suppose that he would have adhered to it. The agricultural party were not indifferent to the sufferings of their fellow countrymen, and would willingly assent to the temporary opening of the ports if the case required it. He begged to say that the strongest constitutional opposition should be given to the proposed measures.

Colonel SIBTHORP was neither surprised nor deceived by the conduct of Sir Robert Peel; for he had been so often deceived by him on questions of religion as well as agriculture, that he was determined to be deceived no more. He would distinctly assert, that if there was one man more likely than another to destroy the country, it was the present Prime Minister.

The address was agreed to, and ordered to be committed. The House adjourned at half-past ten.

Proceedings were resumed in the House of Lords at five o'clock on Thursday. The address, in reply to the Queen's speech, was moved by the Earl of HOME. He recapitulated the leading topics, but avoided entering into detail on the commercial recommendations, lest it should bring on a premature discussion, and raise party spirit.

Lord DE ROS seconded the address.

The question was then put, and declared by the Lord CHANCELLOR to be carried.

The Duke of RICHMOND rose hastily, and remarked, that he was not at all surprised at the effort that had been made to stop discussion.

The Lord CHANCELLOR begged that the Duke would not state that he wanted to stop the discussion. He put the question deliberately and slowly.

The Duke of RICHMOND proceeded angrily with his objections. He had heard enough in the speech to know that the Minister intended to withdraw protection from the industry of the country. He thought that this was in violation of a solemn compact entered into with the agriculturists in 1842. For himself, he could see no difference between the Government and the Anti-Corn-law League; and he saw no reason why Mr. Cobden should not be created a peer. He hoped the House of Lords would stand true to the country, and not allow themselves to be intimidated by the League. Sir Robert Peel declared in 1839, that if the Corn-laws were abolished, the farmers would require the same thing to be done with all other protecting duties; and if such should be the case, what was to become of the public creditor? He entered his solemn protest against the clause which obviously referred to the Corn-laws, but would not move an amendment. He thought the House was entitled to know why the Government had resigned.

The Duke of WELLINGTON reminded their lordships, that there was no proposition before them except that which asked them to take into consideration such measures as may be submitted for their consideration. With regard to the Duke of Richmond's question as to the reasons which had led to the resignation of Ministers, he had to state that no explanation of the kind could be given without the previous consent of the Sovereign. The Duke of Richmond should have given notice of his intention to ask the question.

The Duke of RICHMOND wondered that the Duke of Wellington had not anticipated the question, and asked permission from the Queen to answer it. As it was, he could only give notice of his intention to repeat the question; but he would ask Lord Stanley whether he had not got the Queen's consent to state the reasons why he had left the Government?

Lord STANLEY replied in the affirmative. He had received her Majesty's permission to make such explanations as he might consider necessary; but it was impossible for him to make the statement wished for by the Duke of Richmond without divulging the measures contemplated by the other members of the Cabinet. But he intimated, distinctly enough, that he had retired because of his dissatisfaction with the attempt to diminish or abolish "protection to native industry."

A few other peers took part in the discussion; and Lord BROUGHAM made a rambling and really contemptible attack on the Anti-corn-law League, for which its members had very ample satisfaction in the fact that, at the very same moment, Sir Robert Peel was stating their case with all his force and ability, and giving in his unqualified adhesion to their views. The Earl of RADNOR took Lord Brougham to task, telling the House of Lords, that the whole intellect and enthusiasm of the country were in favour of the Anti-corn-law League; that there was nothing unconstitutional in its proceedings; and, with a touch of sarcasm, reminding their lordships, that "the League did not traffic in

votes; that they did not take advantage of the £50 clause in the Reform Act; nor did they split up property to manufacture votes." Some grumblings followed from the Earl of HARDWICKE, and other peers; and then the Duke of Richmond withdrew his notice to question the Duke of Wellington on the subject of the Ministerial resignation.

The House adjourned at nine o'clock.

THE ADDRESS.

In the House of Commons, on Friday night, on the report on the address being brought up,

Mr. COLQUHOUN revived the wrangle which Mr. D'Israeli began. He reproached Sir Robert Peel for desiring not to be bound in 1846 by views expressed in 1812, and for abandoning that strong attachment which he had expressed for the church, agriculture, the aristocracy now called "proud," and the crown. He predicted for Tuesday, that there would be some compensation for the agricultural interest—some commutation—lots of mystification; but the corn-laws would be abandoned. Sir Robert's arguments were as rotten as the potatoes. It must be admitted, that in his financial measures and in his foreign measures the administration of Sir Robert had been characterised by great wisdom, great prudence, and, therefore, by great success, but the whole policy of England was not wrapt up in these two measures; and for the approaching storm with which our institutions are threatened he had shown himself a bad pilot.

Mr. GEORGE BANKES afterwards followed up this attack.

The Premier, the Royal Speech, the measures, and even the increase of the navy estimates, all things Ministerial except the slave-trade paragraph, were warmly vindicated by Mr. HUME!

Sir ROBERT PEEL replied to Mr. Colquhoun by reiterating many of his positions of Thursday night. He warned his assailant, that in two months the scarcity would prove to be no fit subject for joking levity about rotten potatoes: the most alarming reports had been received that morning from Ireland. Mr. Colquhoun, who reproached him with change, had himself changed sides, having voted with Mr. Villiers: why had he changed?—because, having been disappointed by the Minister on the subjects of Maynooth and the Scottish Church, he sought to retaliate through the corn-laws. But Sir Robert declared, that he would not be provoked by any acrimony to lose his temper; the subject at issue was far too important to be disposed of by recriminations and personalities; let him be answered by arguments, not reproaches. As to the aristocracy, he did not call it "proud" in reproach; he alluded to the just pride of high and heroic achievements—the *superbia quæsitæ meritis*.

The O'CONNOR DON and Mr. SHARMAN CRAWFORD corroborated Sir Robert Peel's warning as to the potato crop. The address was ordered to be presented to-day.

On Monday night, in the House of Lords, the Duke of WELLINGTON, in answer to the interrogations of the Duke of RICHMOND, gave an explanation of the circumstances connected with the ministerial changes at the close of last year. The noble Duke's account of his share in these transactions is exceedingly characteristic. He stated that he objected to the proposition of Sir Robert Peel for opening the ports, considering that the sliding-scale provided for that emergency, should the price of food become high; but he was warmly in favour of measures for providing employment for the people of Ireland. He was also averse to any material alteration being made in the corn-law, though convinced that some alteration was necessary. But when Sir Robert Peel resumed office, he wrote to the noble Duke, stating that he would meet Parliament as her Majesty's Minister, even if he stood alone. His Grace applauded this course, and determined to stand by the First Lord of the Treasury, considering that the formation of a government in which her Majesty could have confidence to be of infinitely greater importance than any opinion of any individual on the corn-law or any other law. He had no doubt but that Sir Robert Peel's measures would give satisfaction to both their lordships and the country.

The Duke of BUCKINGHAM expressed his regret at seeing the Duke of Wellington a member of a free-trade Government; on which the illustrious Duke exclaimed that he did not know what a free-trade Government meant. The remainder of the sitting, which was a short one, was occupied by explanations from the Marquis of Lansdowne and the Earl of Aberdeen, the latter of whom stated that he had supported Sir Robert Peel throughout; and a short debate was carried on respecting special burdens, and other matters, by the Duke of Richmond, the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Earl of Radnor, Lord Beaumont.

RAILWAY BUSINESS.

On Monday night Sir R. PEEL moved the appointment of a select committee to consider the mode in which the House shall deal with railway bills during the present session. The Government have been for some time directing their attention to the subject; but in a manner affecting so many private interests, it was desirable that the House should itself take the initiative, by the appointment of a committee before which all the information of the executive should be immediately laid. In 1844 there were forty-eight railway bills which passed through the Legislature, which involved the expenditure of £14,780,000; and in 1845 there were no less than 118, the capital for was no less than £50,000,000. It was estimated that the construction of a railway required an average period of three years, and, therefore, till the end of 1848, an actual annual outlay on railways alone will be required of £23,000,000. This was a very large sum, without taking into account future schemes. But the matter assumed a serious aspect when it was considered, that there were no less than 815 new schemes, of which 121 were Scotch, and 88 Irish. These contemplated the construction of 20,687 miles of railway, at a conjectural expense of £350,000,000. It was true that many of these projects were merely rival schemes, and a number, it was understood, would fail from other causes; still, after making every deduction from the projects, the plans of which have been deposited with

the Board of Trade, there must remain a very large number which are in a position to come before the Legislature; and it was impossible to contemplate the application of so vast an amount of capital to this one object, without apprehension as to some serious result. He felt strongly the objection to parliamentary interference; and was himself most favourably disposed towards all such enterprises. It was, however, a grave consideration, whether Parliament would permit, or rather encourage, the application of such an amount of capital to railway undertakings. Was it for the advantage of sound railway schemes themselves that it should be done? He doubted it. The extent of competition, the rise in labour and in material, would inevitably affect the estimates of all projects, whether in progress or prospective. It could scarcely be for the public advantage to sanction some five hundred or six hundred new schemes, requiring so large an absorption of capital. But the Government wished the House to act, in the first instance, by the appointment of this committee; and, to aid its investigations, a map was prepared, printed in three different colours, to show finished, progressive, and projected lines, exhibiting the actual state of railway enterprise; while the deposited plans for new railways had been classified under different heads, as those which are calculated to give the greatest amount of accommodation where it is most required, those which have relation to internal defence, as coast lines, and so forth. The committee would thus be saved much labour in their investigations.

Mr. GIBBORNE expressed his dissatisfaction with the proposal to refer so large a question to a committee. Were the standing orders to be suspended during its investigations?

Sir ROBERT PEEL replied in the negative. He had been purposely less explicit than if he had been proposing a positive plan to the House.

Sir G. GREY advocated a separate tribunal for the adjudication of railways. In Ireland, for example, men of all political parties were advocating the plan of a railway tribunal sitting in Dublin, for the examination of witnesses, and other matters.

Mr. CHARLES BULLER advocated the same views. A permanent commission would get the work done in one-half the time; all mere repetition would be spared; counsel would cut short their long speeches; while such a body, constantly paying attention to its subject, would be of use to the community. As it stood, the machinery for managing private bills rendered the system a scandal to the House.

Colonel SIBTHORP expressed his distaste for paid commissions and railway speculation.

Mr. HUDSON thought that, before the committee was constituted, it ought to know what schemes were in a fit state to proceed. They should, therefore, wait to see how many projects were able to comply with the standing orders. For himself, he was not alarmed by the amount of money which would be absorbed by railways. It was required for home distribution, and not to go out of the country; and would, therefore, circulate amongst landowners, iron manufacturers, and labour of all description, multiplying and reproducing. Who was to assume the responsibility of limiting the amount of money to be applied to railways? If, indeed, it were contemplated that a large sum of money should be sent abroad, to pay for an extensive importation of foreign grain, they might, in that case, button up their pockets. But they had not come to that, and ought to go on as if the time had not arrived. The committees of that House were certainly not perfect bodies. He himself had frequently been aggrieved by decisions; but he always, on cool reflection, found cause to respect the decision of the House, and believed that it got through its railway business with satisfaction to the country, and honour to itself.

Mr. FOX MAULE, Mr. C. RUSSELL (the chairman of the Great Western), Lord John Russell, Mr. Hodgson Hinde, Mr. Plumptre, and Mr. Ricardo threw out observations, either in the way of objection or suggestion, to which the Earl of Lincoln briefly replied.—Mr. Labouchere expressed a decided objection to the proposition that a maximum should be fixed of the sum to be applicable to railways, and thought that Government should have come down to the House with a direct and distinct proposition. After speeches from other members,

Sir ROBERT PEEL made a short reply, pointing out that there were already 710 railway bills in the Private Bill Office, involving a capital of £300,000,000. It was not a question of interference with private enterprise, but of, to what extent you will sanction powers to take people's property, and to raise loans. If there were only 200 instead of 700 bills, still they ought to take a preliminary view. A commission would not be satisfactory; and he renewed his protest against the House parting with its virtual jurisdiction.

In answer to Mr. Collett (Athlone), Sir R. PEEL said that the committee would be a select, but not a secret one.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CONDITION OF THE POOR.—Lord ASHLEY has given notice, that on the 29th inst. he will move for leave to bring in a bill to reduce the hours of working of young persons in factories to ten in the day. Also, at some future period, to bring under consideration the state of the juvenile population in many parts of London, Westminster, and Southwark.

NEW WRITS have been ordered to issue for the following places, the representatives of which have resigned:—Selkirk, in the room of Mr. Alex. Pringle; Cork city, Sergeant Murphy; Cashel, Sergeant Stock; East Sussex, Mr. G. Darby; Midhurst, Sir Horace Seymour. Also for Newark, Mr. Gladstone having accepted office; for Bute, Mr. James Stuart Wortley having been appointed Judge-advocate-general; for the West Riding, in the room of Mr. John Stuart Wortley, who succeeded to the peerage; for Ripon, Mr. T. B. C. Smith, having resigned; and for Lichfield, by the elevation of Lord Leveson to the peerage.

PUBLIC WORKS IN IRELAND.—On Friday night Sir THOMAS FREMANTLE obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the acts for the extension and promotion of public works in Ireland. This bill would enable districts to borrow money for the erection of public works, and for the promotion of fisheries in Ireland. It would

extend the time for the re-payment of these loans from three to twenty years, and would enable the constituted authorities to reduce the interest on them to a less rate than 5 per cent. in certain cases. On Monday night Sir T. Fremantle moved a formal resolution to grant £50,000 for the above purpose, which was passed unanimously. In reply to Mr. Hume, Sir ROBERT PEEL assured the House that the fullest information of the application of past grants would be afforded, and that it was not contemplated that the present grant should be applied to private purposes. On the same evening Sir THOMAS FREMANTLE briefly explained the provisions of a bill for granting more effectual facilities for the drainage of lands in Ireland by money loans, the object being to provide employment for the working classes, by the improvement of estates, bogs, moors, and navigable rivers.

THE OREGON QUESTION was the subject of a short conversation on Friday night. In reply to objecting questions by Lord John Russell, and to an approving one by Mr. Hume, Sir Robert Peel stated, that he should consider any termination to the quarrel about the Oregon but a pacific one a most lamentable misfortune. The American Government had offered terms for a compromise; Mr. Pakenham, thinking them little likely to be accepted by this Government, had, somewhat indiscreetly, declined to transmit them; since that time, the English Government had again offered to refer the matter to arbitration; no answer had yet been received to that proposition.

RAILWAY DEPOSITS.—In reply to Lord JOHN RUSSELL, Mr. GOULBURN said that Government would resist any alteration of the standing order relative to the payment of deposits by railway companies.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—On Monday, Mr. CARDWELL moved resolutions restricting the sittings of the House on Wednesdays (the days appropriated to the bills and business of independent members) to specific hours. The House is to meet on each Wednesday, at twelve o'clock at noon, and to rise, if not before, at six o'clock, whether the business has been disposed of or not.

THE LATE COLLIERY EXPLOSION AT RISCA, MONMOUTHSHIRE.—The bodies of all the unfortunate men who were killed by this dreadful explosion have been found. The last was brought up on Monday week. The funeral expenses were defrayed by the proprietors of the works; with three exceptions, the men being members of the society of Odd Fellows. We are given to understand, likewise, that the proprietors have offered to provide for the widows and orphans. The coroner's inquest was commenced on Friday the 16th inst., at the Albert Inn, Risca. The coroner, William Brewer, Esq., and the jury, had been engaged for nearly the whole of Thursday in viewing the twenty-nine bodies that had been found. The jury were sworn to investigate the cause that led to James Gambel's death, one of the most severely injured by destructive vapour. Mr. John Phillips, solicitor, was in attendance to watch the proceedings. Mr. Owen appeared on behalf of several of the widows and other relatives of the deceased. Mr. Baker, of Risca, appeared for the proprietors of the colliery. Three witnesses were examined. Mr. Owen endeavoured in the cross-examinations to prove, that the colliery was not in a fit state to be worked—that one of the underground agents was not quick enough to detect fire-damp—and that he had been seen half drunk many times. At the suggestion of one of the proprietors, the inquest was adjourned to Wednesday, February 4, that the report of a competent surveyor as to the state of the works may be obtained. From an editorial article in the *Monmouthshire Merlin*, we presume that it is probable that a Government commission will be appointed to inquire into the cause of this dreadful catastrophe. Certainly this, and the late accident at Aberdare, when twenty-eight persons were killed by a similar explosion, are sufficient to convince all that a strict inquiry ought to be instituted, that some means may be devised to protect human life. The numerous accidents which continually occur lead us to suspect, that some of them, at least, must be the result of culpable negligence on the part of either masters or workmen.—*From our Correspondent.*

MR. VINCENT'S TOUR IN SCOTLAND.—Mr. Vincent continues to address large meetings in Scotland on the state of the country in relation to the free-trade, religious liberty, and suffrage movements. During the past week he has delivered lectures at Leslie (where the inhabitants turned out in procession, and, with music playing, accompanied Mr. V. to the meeting), St. Andrews (attended by several professors from the University), Dunfermline, and Edinburgh. The meeting at the latter place was held in Dr. Alexander's church, and was very much crowded. The address was on the state of the country, free-trade, and the future prospects of the people on the suffrage and other questions. Several ministers of the gospel were present. The meeting was very influential, and Mr. Vincent's reception was most enthusiastic. John Wigam, Esq. (president of the League), occupied the chair. He strongly condemned the attempt to ballot for the militia, and hoped the people would rather go to prison than be made into soldiers, a sentiment which was loudly cheered. Mr. Vincent addressed the meeting for two hours and a half, and the audience evinced its deep interest by the most vociferous cheering. At the conclusion of his address, when he spoke of the certain and not distant triumph of universal suffrage and of religious freedom, he was responded to by shouts of applause which lasted several minutes. The meeting did not separate till nearly eleven o'clock.

LIABILITY OF PROVISIONAL COMMITTEES.—In the Court of Exchequer a cause of importance to railway speculators has just been decided. The action was brought by a printer and stationer, of London, against Mr. Jones Burdett, a nephew of the late Sir Francis Burdett, to recover the sum of £119, for stationery, printing, &c., furnished to the Irish West Coast Railway Company. Mr. Burdett being a member of the provisional committee, the court decided that he became responsible from the time he had consented to act as a member of the committee. A verdict was given for the amount claimed.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

THE WEST RIDING ELECTION.—We understand that the election for the West Riding is fixed to take place on Wednesday week.—Another person, who signs himself "Archer Gurney, Rock Vale, Devon, and 4, Stanhope-street, London," and who professes to be "an exponent of the economic policy of protection," has declared himself a candidate for the West Riding. He is willing, however, to withdraw in favour of any candidate Mr. Ferrand may choose to propose. Very accommodating!—*Leeds Times.*

It is said that Mr. Bright will offer himself as a candidate for Wolverhampton, on the dissolution of Parliament, to replace Mr. Villiers, who is to stand for South Lancashire.

REPRESENTATION OF BRADFORD.—We have much gratification in stating, that the requisition to Mr. Busfield and Colonel Thompson has now obtained 824 signatures—a result sufficiently indicative of the overwhelming superiority of the free-trade party in this borough. Party predilections have been honourably suspended for a while. Men that are ultra Tories on other questions having signed on the one hand, and ultra Radicals having signed on the other.—*Bradford Observer.*

Much activity, says the *Morning Chronicle*, is already being displayed by the free-trade party in various parts of the kingdom, in anticipation of a general election, and with the most brilliant hopes of success. The same journal subjoins the following information on the subject:—

CITY OF LONDON.—No doubt remains, owing to the great majorities which the Free-traders obtained at the three last registries, of the return of four Free-traders. Amongst the many rumours afloat is one to the effect, that Mr. Cobden will be one of the gentlemen to whom a requisition will be presented.

WESTMINSTER.—Sir De Lacy Evans, it is understood, will once more contest this city on free-trade principles. He was beaten on the last occasion by a very few votes. Captain Rous will have little chance of success, unless he pledges himself decidedly a Free-trader, to which it must be acknowledged he has, since his election, made considerable advances. Lord Robert Grosvenor, it is stated, will fight the battle of free-trade. Mr. Carter Wood, the brewer, is spoken of by the monopolists.

Any opposition in the other metropolitan boroughs to the return of Liberals would be hopeless, save in Greenwich, where the dock-yard influence might be brought to bear, but to a very small extent, if any inference may be drawn from the numbers polled by the two present members at the last election, when the Tory candidate was no less a personage than Sir George Cockburn, since returned for the pocket borough of Ripon.

MIDDLESEX.—Here the recent majorities obtained at the registry courts will afford the Free-traders an opportunity of triumphing. It is not likely, however, that any party will oppose the venerable Mr. Byng, who has now represented the county for 55 years.

LIVERPOOL.—Under any circumstances, there will be a contest for this borough, if only on the ground of Lord Sandon's support of the Maynooth Bill. Mr. Ewart, who formerly represented the borough on Liberal principles, will no doubt once more solicit the suffrages of the electors. Sir J. Walsley, who contested the borough in 1841, along with Lord Palmerston, is also spoken of.

LANCASHIRE (SOUTH).—In this great manufacturing county, such have been the exertions of the Free-traders, that very little doubt exists of their success. Mr. Brown and Mr. Charles Pelham Villiers will, it is stated, be the champions of free-trade. Lord Francis Egerton will not again come forward.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).—In the event of a general election, Lord Milton, eldest son to the Earl Fitzwilliam, will be invited to stand with Lord Morpeth.

LINCOLN.—In this city active preparations are being made to secure the return of Mr. Seely, a Free-trader. Report states that Sir E. L. Bulwer Lytton, Bart., will again come forward.

WAKEFIELD.—Mr. Gaskell will be the Liberal candidate, in opposition to Mr. Lascelles.

IPSWICH.—Mr. Rigby Wason, the former member, and Mr. Thornbury, are mentioned on the Liberal interest.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.—Lord Duncan is to move the repeal of the window tax on the 20th of February, and Colonel Sibthorp has given notice of his intention to propose a reduction of the duty on fire insurance.

WARLIKE PREPARATIONS.—The preparations making at the Royal Arsenal to complete the five ships of the line, eleven frigates, and six sloops, ordered to be made ready, and to be stationed at each of the out-ports, are fast progressing, and the whole of the vessels will soon be in a most efficient state. These vessels, twenty-two in the various classes referred to above, to be stationed at each of the out-ports, are exclusive of the thirty-five advance ships, also prepared for defending the out-ports, and the war-steamer in Her Majesty's service at the several home stations. Orders have been given to prepare armaments for six additional large steamers, and it is expected the number of new large class steamers of war will be extended to ten.

TREDEGAR.—A large pond for the use of the mine-works between this town and Rumney, broke on Monday night, the 19th inst. Great damage was done to the mine-works. Two houses were carried away by the torrent. An aged woman was drowned in bed, and several persons living near the place had a narrow escape for their lives. Had the accident occurred in the day-time, when the miners were at work, many lives would have been inevitably lost. Owing to the state of the road on the following day, the Merthyr mail was detained for a considerable time. The miners have now returned to work, but many of them have sustained great losses, owing to their ore being carried away, which they can ill bear.

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, January 28th.

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S STATEMENT LAST NIGHT.

The House of Commons was the scene of extraordinary excitement from an early hour yesterday afternoon, in expectation of the Premier's statement on the subject of the Corn-laws. At an early hour an unusual influx of strangers, including many distinguished Lords, afforded a significant indication of the important business about to occupy the attention of the House. Prince Albert and the Duke of Cambridge occupied seats at the bar. The greatest anxiety prevailed, and the House presented a most unusual and interesting spectacle.

Mr. M. PHILLIPS, amidst loud cheering, presented the great Manchester petition, praying for the total and immediate repeal of the corn-laws.

On the motion that the order of the day for the House resolving itself into Committee on the paragraph of her Majesty's speech relating to commercial policy be read, Mr. MILES trusted that ample time would be given to the House to state its opinion on the subject. Sir R. PEEL said his statement would be rather a commercial statement than a financial one. He would not call on the House to come to any decision. He would not wish any opinion on the plan until after the lapse of some days.

The House then resolved itself into committee, and

Sir R. PEEL rose to explain to the House the measures which the Government proposed for their adoption, in order to carry out the recommendation which had just been read in regard to commercial policy. Whatever might be the opinion ultimately formed with regard to the merits of the proposal of the Government, he was sure that the vast importance of the interests concerned would secure to him a patient and indulgent hearing. He was about to review the duties applying to many articles, the produce of other countries. He proceeded on the assumption that the repeal of protective and prohibitive duties was good, that abstractedly those duties were bad in principle, and that it was necessary to show special cause for their maintenance. He agreed that, during the last three years, there had been increased production and increased consumption, concurrent with the repeal of prohibitive, and the reduction of protective duties. The course he should pursue had been sanctioned by the House, and it was perfectly consistent to follow out that course. He maintained, however, that, in the adoption of good principles, they should not be regardless of meriting public credit, nor should they forget the recommendation that no loss should be inflicted on any class of her Majesty's subjects. He wished the House to deal deliberately and dispassionately with his proposal. Perchance he was about to meddle with so many interests, that all might unite to oppose him, and, when the question came forward for discussion, it might be met by a notice that protection to domestic industry was a good object, and ought to be persevered in. It might be that those who dissented from his scheme in part might be disposed to support it as a whole, in order to bring the present conflict to an equitable termination. The principle of the relaxation of protective duties he was not about to apply to any particular interest. He was not about to call upon the agriculturists to relinquish protection and continue it to others; confident that his principle was a wise one, he called upon all protectionists to relinquish their protection. The principle of the new tariff had been to lower all duties to about 20 per cent. *ad valorem*. That was in 1842. In subsequent years the principle had been still further carried out. The duty on the raw material of manufactures had been relinquished, and therefore he was entitled to call upon the manufacturer to relinquish his protection. He proposed to continue to act on the principles which that House had sanctioned, and to remove the duties from those articles of raw material still subject to it. These were only tallow and timber. Tallow was largely used in important manufactures, and he proposed to reduce the duty levied upon tallow. The present duty was 3s. 2d. per cwt., and he proposed, in order to encourage Russia in her liberal policy, that England should, without stipulation, reduce the duty from 3s. 2d. to 1s. 8d. With regard to timber: Colonial timber was admitted at a nominal duty, and as they were about to affect domestic interests, they had a right to effect a reduction in the timber duties; and he was anxious the consumer should reap the advantage of the reduction, and therefore he proposed to make it gradually. On an early day, after there had been an opportunity of stating the details of the subject, the intention of the Government should be made public with regard to the reduction of the timber duties. These were reductions, not repeals, and with those exceptions he hardly knew any raw materials which were subject to duty. He, therefore, called on the manufacturers to give that proof of the sincerity of their convictions of the impolicy of protective duties by relinquishing protection. He asked the manufacturers of woollen, linen, and cotton, to set the example of relinquishing their protection. His hon. friend, the member for Dorsetshire, and he trusted that no political differences would interrupt their private friendship, had expressed a hope that small interests would not be interfered with. He intended to interfere with great interests, and to meddle as little as possible with small ones. Manufactured cottons formerly were subject to a duty of 10 per cent. He proposed it should be imported duty free, without restriction. The duty on manufactured cottons, which was now twenty per cent., he proposed to reduce to ten per cent. He was the more anxious that the manufacturers should assent to this, because they had set the example by asking for protection. Adam Smith

stated, that it was not the agriculturists but the manufacturers that had commenced the system of monopoly. "Country gentlemen and farmers," said Adam Smith, "were least actuated by the wretched spirit of monopoly" [a laugh]. Protection was first pressed on the Legislature by the trading interests; and, therefore, they should first relinquish it. With regard to linens and woollens, he proposed that they also should relinquish protection, and he doubted not but that the skill of the country would beat foreigners. Woollen goods were subject to a duty of twenty per cent. He proposed to reduce it to ten per cent. on linens as well as on cottons and woollens; that the coarser sorts should come in duty free, and that, in regard to the finer sorts the reduction of duty should be reduced to one-half of its present amount. With respect to silk, he thought that they should apply the same system, and make a great reduction. They had a duty which in respect to many articles was prohibitory, and it was considered a protection to domestic industry. It was no such thing, for there were houses in Paris which would guarantee the delivery of the goods in London at one-half the duty. They would, by a reduction of that duty, encourage a lawful traffic instead of an unlawful one. There were many articles of silk on which the duty was more than thirty per cent., as, for instance, on crape and other articles of manufacture. He proposed a new arrangement of those duties, and that the general rule should be to levy a duty *ad valorem*, in no case exceeding fifteen per cent. Then with regard to paper, the duty was 1s. per square yard, without distinction of quality. He proposed to reduce that duty to 2d. per square yard. He now approached those manufactures connected with metals. All manufactures of metals were charged with a duty of 15 per cent.: he proposed that no duty should exceed ten per cent.: that was to be the maximum. Then with regard to brocade and earthenware, he proposed a similar reduction. Then with regard to foreign carriages, he proposed to reduce the duty from 20 per cent. to 10 per cent. He proposed to reduce the duty upon candles to one-half of the present amount, and also a similar reduction in foreign soap. Hard soap now subject to a duty of 30s., he promised to reduce it to 20s., soft soap to 10s., and Naples soap from 56s. to 15s. There were many articles in which he proposed to remit the duty altogether. There were 500 articles standing in the tariff in respect of which there was no duty. He proposed to apply this principle to many other articles. In respect to all articles connected with the manufacture of leather great remittances of duty had taken place. He proposed to remove altogether the duty on dressed hides, and then there would not be a single raw material subject to duty, and then he proposed to reduce the duty on foreign boots and shoes; from boots 1s. 3d. to 1s. 9d. per dozen; boots from £1 8s. per dozen to 14s., and for shoes from 14s. to 7s. He proposed to reduce the duty upon straw plait from 5s. to 3s. 6d. per lb. He was disposed to act freely and impartially. He had exhausted every article of manufacture. He proposed to reduce the duty upon brandy and foreign spirits from 22s. per gallon, and the consumption was not now greater in this country than it was in the seventeenth century. There was no article in which smuggling more prevailed. He proposed to reduce the present duty of 22s. to 15s. per gallon. With regard to sugar, he intended to propose the reduction of the duty on foreign free labour sugar to 3s. 6d., reducing by that amount the differential duty. He now came to those articles connected with agriculture. There were many articles subject to heavy duties which did not operate as protection. There was, for instance, the article of tobacco; and, in treating of these articles, he hoped that House would bear in mind the necessity of supporting the public revenue, and not press for a simultaneous removal of duties which would be thought high. He would take first those articles not connected with food, and he thought that, by reducing the duty on grass seeds, he was conferring a benefit on agriculture. The duty on clover seed, for instance, was a heavy burden on agriculture. He proposed to reduce the duty on all seeds to 5s. per cwt., as a maximum duty. In order to promote the fattening of cattle, which was so necessary to the production of manure for the fertilising of the soil, he proposed that Indian corn should be henceforth admitted duty free, or rather with a merely nominal duty. He considered that, in doing this, he was not doing any injury to the agricultural interest. He proposed to subject buck-wheat to the same rule, and the flour of those articles. He proposed to admit the meal of those articles on the same footing as the grain. With regard to linseed cake and rape cake, the price had been gradually rising for years. He had been requested to enable many articles used in feeding cattle in the United States—such as rice cake—to be admitted duty free, and he therefore proposed to admit it. He came now to consider those articles of agricultural produce used for the food of man, and he felt the difficulty of dealing with them. His object was to come to some adjustment of this question between the demands of those who upheld unrelaxed protection and those who contended for the repeal of all duties. He feared neither party would approve of his plan, but he proposed it for the public advantage, as the foundation of a settlement. He did not propose an immediate repeal of all duty, although he proposed an immediate reduction in respect to all, and immediate and total repeal in respect to many. He proposed to reduce the duty on butter from £1 to 10s. the cwt.; on cheese, from 10s. to 5s.; on hops, from £4 10s. to £2 5s. The duties on bacon, beef (both salt and fresh), pork, potatoes, and all vegetables, he intended to repeal. All foreign animals he proposed should be hereafter admitted duty free. The Corn-laws then came to be dealt with. He did not propose immediate repeal, but entire repeal at the end of three years. He proposed that, in the meanwhile, all kinds of grain and meal the produce of grain grown in the British Colonial possessions, should be admitted at a nominal duty. He then announced the scale of duties which he proposed to levy upon foreign wheat during the period intervening between the passing of the measure and the 1st February, 1849. When the price of corn in this country should be under 48s., a

duty of 10s.; when above 48s. and under 49s., 9s. duty; above 49s. and under 50s., 8s. duty; above 50s. and under 51s., 7s. duty; above 51s. and under 52s., 6s. duty; above 52s. and under 53s., 5s. duty; and when the price reached 53s., a permanent duty of 4s. By way of compensation to the agricultural interest for these reductions, he proposed the consolidation of the present Highway Boards. The present Law of Settlement he proposed should be altered. The existing law, he considered, was unfavourable to the morals of the labouring population, no less than it was unfair to the interest of the rural ratepayers. He proposed that five years' continuous residence in any place should confer exemption from removal, and that this privilege should extend to the labourer's wife and family. The next proposition was for promoting agricultural improvement, by means of public advances to the tenants of entailed estates. He then proceeded to discuss the question of peculiar burdens on land. Many of these taxes, being local, could not be shifted without injury even to the interest which it was desired to benefit. There were, however, some burdens which should be transferred from the land. He proposed that the expense of prosecutions now paid by local rates, should in future be laid upon the Consolidated Fund. Half the cost of medical relief he proposed should be paid by Government. The Government would hereafter defray the charges of education in workhouses, leaving the appointment of the masters and mistresses in the hands of the guardians. The salaries of union auditors he proposed should be paid by the public. He concluded by referring to the present disposition of other countries in regard to commercial intercourse. He admitted that Government had received no assurances of reciprocity, but denied that any other than an inference favourable to the policy he advocated could be derived from the experience of the restrictive system, wherever it had been tried. Let us, therefore, adopt a wise and enlightened course, relying upon other countries to follow our example. In Naples, Norway, Sweden, Austria, and Hanover, liberal commercial principles had already made considerable progress. It was not merely on the ground that this policy would increase our wealth, but that, by producing cheapness and abundance, it would go to diminish crime and the rate of mortality in the country. The proposals he had submitted to the House, he believed, were demanded by a strong public feeling, and he likewise considered they would have a tendency to benefit the great mass of the community, without producing injury to the agricultural interest. After a few observations on the part of several agricultural members, it was arranged that the discussion upon the bill should proceed on Monday week.

Mr. LIDDELL said that the compensation offered to the agricultural interest was wholly inadequate. On these grounds he would oppose the measure.

Captain ROUS would support most zealously the measure of Sir Robert Peel, believing it to be for the benefit of the country.

Mr. S. O'BRIEN and Lord INGESTRE protested against Sir R. Peel's measure, as calculated to prejudice the country.

Mr. Scott, Lord G. Bentinck, Sir J. Tyrrell, Col. Sibthorp, and the Earl of March spoke against Sir R. Peel's scheme.

Mr. S. HERBERT would reserve to a future period the full explanation of the reasons which had produced his conversion to free-trade principles, and at that time he should be prepared to defend Sir R. Peel's measure.

Mr. GROGAN inquired how the loss which the reduction of duties would entail upon the revenue would be provided for. Sir R. PEEL had that confidence in the elasticity of the resources of the country, that he thought no additional taxation would be needed. He did not intend to augment the rate of the Income tax.

Mr. CURTIS would not pledge himself, but would give the subject his candid attention, and should be happy to find it produce a final adjustment. He offered, on behalf of the hop-growers, to relinquish all protection.

Mr. B. ESCOTT supported the scheme, and expressed his satisfaction that a fortnight had been allowed for the consideration of the matter; in which interval he doubted not that the country would generally express its approbation. Lord GEORGE BENTINCK inquired whether Sir R. Peel intended to introduce any measure to alter the present arrangement respecting tithe. It was unjust to require the landowner to pay tithe on the supposition that wheat was 58s. 8d. the quarter, while the actual price might be 45s. Sir R. PEEL did not expect that the price of wheat would fall materially; and consequently he did not think that there would be any need of a measure to regulate afresh the tithe averages.

Mr. WAKLEY considered the measure most favourable to the interests of the working people, and it had his hearty approval. He was prepared to decide at once, and condemned delay as furnishing opportunity for agitation.

Colonel T. WOOD (Middlesex) cordially approved the measure, as being likely to benefit the country.

Lord NEWPORT asked for a deliberate appeal to the constituencies.

Mr. G. BANKES believed the tenant farmers would derive no advantage from the compensation proposed to be given by the bill to the agricultural interest. The grounds on which that interest claimed protection, would not admit of compromise or compensation.

The CHAIRMAN then reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again on Monday.

It is worthy of note that none of the free-trade members, with the exception of Mr. Wakley, gave any opinion upon the merits of the scheme.

The House of Lords adjourned at half-past five o'clock, nothing important having been done. The Duke of RICHMOND, however, took the opportunity of denying Mr. O'Connor's statement made at a meeting at the Crown and Anchor a few days ago.

SIR R. PEEL'S PLAN.

The following condensed account of the Premier's plan, as announced last night, may perhaps serve to give a more connected view of its leading features than can be gathered from the speech itself:—

ALTERATION IN THE CORN-LAWS.—That in lieu of the duties now payable on the importation of corn, grain, meal, or flour, there shall be paid until the 1st day of February, 1849, the following duties, viz.:—

If imported from any foreign country,—

WHEAT.

Whenever the average price of wheat, made up and published in the manner required by law, shall be for every quarter.

s.	s.	s. d.
Under 48	the duty shall be for every quarter	10 0
48 — 49	ditto	9 0
49 — 50	ditto	8 0
50 — 51	ditto	7 0
51 — 52	ditto	6 0
52 — 53	ditto	5 0
53 and upwards	ditto	4 0

BARLEY, BEAR OR RIGS.

Whenever the average, &c.

s.	s.	s. d.
Under 26	the duty shall be for every quarter	5 0
26 — 27	ditto	4 6
27 — 28	ditto	4 0
28 — 29	ditto	3 6
29 — 30	ditto	3 0
30 — 31	ditto	2 6
31 and upwards	ditto	2 0

OATS.

Whenever the average, &c.,

s.	s.	s. d.
Under 18	the duty shall be for every quarter	4 0
18 — 19	ditto	3 6
19 — 20	ditto	3 0
20 — 21	ditto	2 6
21 — 22	ditto	2 0
22 and upwards	ditto	1 6

From and after the 1st of February, 1849, there shall be paid the following duties:—Wheat, barley, bear or biggs, &c., 1s.; wheatmeal, barleymeal, oatmeal, &c., for every cwt., 4d.

OTHER PARTICULARS.—Manufactures dealt with specially; that is, not subject to ten per cent. duty.

Dressed hides, duty free; raw hides, duty free; all articles in tanning, duty free.

Beaver or silk hats, no great reduction, on account of the quantity of spirits of wine used in domestic manufacture.

Straw-plaiting from 7s. 6d. to 5s. per pound.

Straw-hats, from 8s. 6d. to 5s. per pound.

On boot-fronts, from 3s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. per dozen pair; large fronts, from 5s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. per dozen pair; boots, from £1 8s. to 14s. per dozen pair; shoes, from 14s. to 7s.; women and children's shoes in the same proportion.

IRELAND.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—The weekly meeting of the members and audience of the "Loyal National Repeal Association" took place on Monday. The chief attraction was the circumstance of this meeting being the last previous to the departure of Mr. O'Connell and the Irish Repeal members for England. They accordingly made their farewell speeches, which were of little importance. Rent for the week about £200.

THE REPEAL M.P.'s held their conference at Radley's Hotel, Dublin, on Friday. Mr. O'Connell said, that for his part he was determined to proceed to Parliament, and give his voice in favour of the removal of all restrictions on food, and to oppose any coercion bill that might be introduced, unless accompanied by remedial measures. Mr. Smith O'Brien, M.P., did not consider it expedient just now to attend in Parliament, believing that he would be of more benefit to his country by acting in Conciliation-hall. With regard to the corn-laws, he (Mr. O'Brien) was not prepared to vote for their total and immediate repeal.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.—Many parts of Ireland are in a most disorganised state, assassinations and agrarian outrages occurring almost daily. The last accounts represent the state of the county of Limerick as most alarming: two murders had been perpetrated under circumstances of the most fearful outrage: the cause, in each instance, being connected with the letting of land. The robbery of fire-arms, the posting of rockite notices, and attacks of armed parties, are of daily occurrence. The latest accounts from Dublin represent the fears on the score of the potato crop as increasing rather than otherwise: it is apprehended that the actual effect of the scarcity may be felt sooner than was at first supposed probable.

The Times commissioner has concluded his labours in Ireland, after between four and five months' sojourn in that country. The industrious education of the poor, and the supplying means of employment, are the remedies he suggests for Irish distress.

MINISTERIAL RESIGNATIONS.—The Marquis of Granby's resignation has not yet been sent in, but his friends affirm that it will be offered on his return to town, which has taken place. No less than twelve resignations are expected to be sent in this day. To those already named in this paper, are to be added, Lord Jermyn, Lord Mahon, and Mr. Forbes M'Kenzie. —Daily News.

REPRESENTATION OF NEWARK.—It is believed that the liberals and moderate conservatives of Newark will unite to return Mr. Gladstone as their member in spite of the Duke of Newcastle. The nomination will take place on Thursday morning, in the Town-hall; and the election (should there be a contest) on Friday.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
English	1230	2410	1740			
Scotch.....						
Irish			1580			
Foreign	2470	1230	1430			

Very little doing in the present state of things.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In reply to a host of inquiries respecting particular exemptions from militia service, we beg to present our readers with the following summary:—

"By the 42 Geo. III., c. 90, s. 43, no peer of this realm, nor any person being a commissioned officer in his Majesty's other forces, or in any one of his Majesty's castles or forts, nor any officer on the half-pay of the navy, army, or marines; nor any non-commissioned officer or private man serving in any of his Majesty's other forces, nor any commissioned officer serving, or who has served four years in the militia; nor any person being a resident member of either of the universities, nor any clergyman; nor any licensed teachers of any separate congregation, whose place of meeting shall have been duly registered within twelve months previous to the general meeting appointed to meet in October for the purposes of this act; nor any constable or other peace officer, nor any article clerk, apprentice, seamen, or seafaring man; nor any person mustered, trained, or doing duty, or employed in any of his Majesty's docks or dock-yards for the service thereof, or employed and mustered in his Majesty's service in the Tower of London, Woolwich Warren, the several gun-wharfs at Portsmouth, or at the several powder mills, powder magazines, or other storehouses belonging to his Majesty, under the direction of the Board of Ordnance; nor any person being free of the Company of Watermen of the river Thames; nor any poor man who has more than one child born in wedlock (nor, by 44 Geo. III., c. 54, ss. 7, 8, any person enrolled and serving as an effective member of any corps of yeomanry or volunteers, and who shall be duly returned and certified as such), shall be liable to serve personally or by substitute, and no person having served personally or by substitute, according to the directions of any former act or acts relating to the militia, or under this act, shall be obliged to serve again, until by rotation it shall come to his turn; but no person who has served only as a substitute or volunteer in the militia shall be thereby exempted from serving again, if he shall be chosen by ballot."—*Burn's Justice*, by Chitty, vol. iii. p. 964-5.

"Togatus." We may possibly make use of his lines in a future number.

"An Englishman." We have no room.

"Thomas Ireland." The lines are worth publication, but the piece is too long for us and we cannot divide it.

Thanks to our Lyons correspondent.

"M. J. P." We shall probably advert to the objection in the course of the series.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28, 1846.

SUMMARY.

THE parliamentary session of 1846 was opened on Thursday last by her Majesty in person. The speech from the throne might be said to divide itself into three branches:—first, the ordinary congratulations and hopes respecting foreign affairs—second, a civil request for more soldiers, and, of course, more money to supply them—and thirdly, a glance at domestic questions, past, present, and prospective, beginning with assassinations in Ireland, sliding into regrets at the prevalence of the potato disease, and concluding with a recommendation to make further application of those principles of political economy, which, in every fair experiment to which they have been submitted, have worked out increase to the revenue and commercial relief to the people. The royal speech was briefly commented upon in both Houses of Parliament—in the Lords, diluted with a considerable addition of words, but illustrated by no revelations of ministerial designs by Lord Home and Lord de Ros—in the Commons, pointedly set off by the speech of Lord Francis Egerton, who declared his conversion to free-trade principles, and made still more telling by Mr. Denison, who, although according to his own confession ignorant of the plan of Ministers, declared his unqualified confidence in the existing Administration.

The House of Commons was not kept long in suspense. Scarcely had Mr. Denison seconded a motion for the address, which, of course, was merely an echo of the speech, when Sir R. Peel started to his feet, and having, as he said, obtained her Majesty's permission, gave to the wondering House an explanation of the Ministerial crisis. He declared that he was not about to rest the propositions he should hereafter submit to Parliament upon the disease of the potato crop, wide-spread and terrible as that calamity might hereafter prove. He avowed a total change in his views respecting the protection of the great interests of the country—a change which, he said, had been brought about, not so much by abstract reasons, the validity and force of which he could not deny, but by observation and experience. He cited the experiments which the Legislature had consented to make in favour of relaxation, during the last three years, and proved, in every instance, that the changes had been accompanied by no deterioration in the interests of those whose articles of commerce had been thus dealt with. He boldly asserted his own freedom and independence, as a Minister of the Crown, and declared that he would not stand at the helm through a blustering night, unless it were allowed to traverse freely. His whole speech was characterised by a boldness and a manliness of tone never before exhibited by Sir R. Peel; and if, which is unquestionable, he based his conclusions upon the narrow induction of his own experience, and insinuated that the conclusions of the Free-traders, hitherto, rested

solely upon grounds of a *priori* reasoning, we must take into account the official education of the man, and pardon the infirmity which threw a veil over his greatness.

Sir R. Peel was followed by Lord John Russell, who gave a clear statement of the part which he had taken during the Ministerial crisis, and of the policy which he should have pursued, had he succeeded in forming an administration. He added little to the information already possessed by the public; but, at the close of his speech, he declared that, if he coveted office for any one purpose above and beyond all others, it was in the hope of proposing some comprehensive plan, which should conciliate the affections of unhappy Ireland, by placing her upon a footing of equality with other parts of the empire. Mr. D'Israeli followed as the champion of the Protectionists, and, in a speech of extraordinary power and bitter truthfulness, put Sir R. Peel to the torture for the delusions which he had practised upon his too-confiding followers. There was a severity about it which the specious tortuosities of Peel's recent party tactics richly deserved, but there was also a tone of malignity which greatly detracted from its moral force. The hon. member for Shrewsbury is, perhaps, unrivalled in his power of victimising hollow pretences, and of exposing organised hypocrisies. We wish only he would so use it as to provoke no suspicion, on the part of those who love transparency of conduct, that he is doing duty for excited passions, rather than for an exalted moral sense. Mr. Miles and Colonel Sibthorp uttered some characteristic ravings, and the address was voted without opposition.

Passing over some conversation, on the Oregon question, which took place on Friday evening, but which, we are happy to say, was pacific in its tone, we come to the business of Monday, which was important, not so much from what was done, as from what was indicated as likely to be done. Sir Robert Peel proposed a select committee to consider, and report from time to time, on the best mode of dealing with the immense mass of railway business which would presently be brought under the consideration of the House. His speech in moving for the committee pointed at the enormous drain of capital which the existing projects would absorb, and intimated the propriety of checking the too sudden development of enterprise in this direction. A long and somewhat desultory conversation ensued, in which "the railway king" made his maiden speech, and which terminated in the appointment of the committee. It is said, we know not with what truth, that Government will encourage the completion of all those lines which render perfect the communications already commenced and in progress, and, for the sake of internal defence, all coast lines; and that all other schemes will, if possible, be deferred. It is doubtful, however, if such intentions are entertained, whether the railway interest will not prove an overmatch for them.

Sir Thomas Freemantle obtained leave to bring in a bill for the extension of public works in Ireland, by a grant of £50,000 for that purpose.

The House of Lords has not hitherto exhibited much disturbance. On the motion for the address, or, rather, subsequently to the motion, for it was carried without remark, the Duke of Richmond delivered himself of a due measure of indignation, and demanded some explanation at the hands of the Duke of Wellington, to which the Duke drily observed, that he had not obtained the permission of her Majesty. Lord Stanley was next poked, in the hope of stirring him up to the disclosure of some state secrets, but it would not do. The evening would have gone off as dull as ditchwater, but for Lord Brougham, who ventured upon one of those speeches to which he sometimes gives utterance, and which seem framed with the express intention of reminding his countrymen how much they have lost by elevating Henry Brougham to the dignity of the peerage. He objected to the corn-laws; he wished for their repeal; but then it was upon purely economical principles; and he would rather put his right hand into the fire than sanction the preposterous notion, that the artificial scarcity of food, produced by these laws, was the parent of crime, misery, or death. He denounced the League as an unconstitutional body; described their levying of money upon their supporters as a thing which all great statesmen had condemned, and dangerous to good government. He taxed them with obtaining large sums for the express purpose of buying votes; deprecated all attention to the pressure from without; argued that, when representatives are once chosen, they should be let alone to do their work as might seem fit to their wisdom; and concluded a long speech by enunciating principles which must have given great satisfaction to dual patriotism. He was smartly pulled up by Lord Radnor, who controverted his doctrines and denied his facts.

On Monday the Duke made his explanation. It was brief and simple enough, and was a remarkable contrast to that of Sir R. Peel. It threw no new light upon the Ministerial crisis, but it indicated that the Duke means to stand by Sir Robert with chivalrous devotion, because Sir Robert stood by the Queen, when perplexed for want of a ministry.

Other matters must be embraced in a single paragraph. Our columns will show that the anti-militia movement is extending with remarkable rapidity—that the anti-state-church movement is making way in spite of all obstructions—and that the war-fever in America, although for a short season abated, has broken forth again with strange virulence. We believe, however, that on this, and on the other side of the At-

lantic, the alarm is purposely got up for party purposes; and that, in the issue, it will be found that the population of both empires have too much good sense and good feeling to throw away the advantages of peace, for a comparatively worthless tract of country on the western coast of America.

THE PREMIER'S CONFESSION.

THE past week has ushered into the world one of those strange and startling phenomena which go far to stamp the character of an age. The Prime Minister of Great Britain has offered his homage at the shrine of truth—has confessed a policy with which, for a long course of years, he had identified his name and fame as a statesman, to be founded in error—has broken in pieces the machinery of party which himself, with laborious toil, had constructed—and, in the face of much obloquy, many difficulties, and possible exile from office, has declared his intention of giving practical effect to his altered views. This is a great act. To extricate himself from the meshes which his own partizanship has woven about him, is, perhaps, one of the hardest tasks which a political leader can set himself to perform—asks a larger measure of self-denial—requires a greater pressure of recognised responsibility, than any other. It is not easy for men in private life to pronounce sentence of condemnation upon their own career—it is far more difficult for public men, whose past efforts have raised them to eminence—it is all but impossible for the Prime Minister of the foremost empire in the world. Yet, this Sir Robert Peel did on Thursday last. Let him have all the honour due to his courage! It was a great thing to do—and, all things considered, it was nobly done.

We will not consent to judge Sir Robert Peel by that vulgar standard which attributes what he has been to hypocrisy, or what he is to the necessity of his position. Doubtless, many of his own acts suggest the first supposition, and recent circumstances give some colour to the last. His ambition, in its struggles to rise to supremacy, was probably too eager for deliberate thought—adopted, without serious reflection, conclusions which opened a way for its own gratification—hurried him into positions which he was not careful to examine, and from which, when found to be false, there was no safe retreat—and committed him to the defence of a cause deemed to be strong enough to resist all assaults, without leaving him at leisure either to survey with exactness its weak and vulnerable points, or to estimate truly the force which could be brought against it. That ambition, however, having been somewhat sated by success, the sense of responsibility gradually recovered from its previous torpor. Paisley, perhaps, suggested the first thought that a government which, by restricting the supply of a people's food, becomes accountable for all the variations of a proverbially variable climate, occupies a false and dangerous position. We can easily conceive that the operative insurrection of 1843 roused the Premier to admit to his own conscience the wide-spreading mischief of protection—that his resolution to abolish it by cautious advances was then formed—that his revision of the tariff in 1845 was a step taken with premeditation in the right direction—and that the potato blight, calling up vivid reminiscences of the agony he had once endured, when thousands rose from their beds in the morning, not knowing where they could obtain bread before night, precipitated his determination to settle for ever the corn-law question, and rather to expose himself to political ostracism than to burden his conscience once again with the misery, crime, and death, necessarily consequent upon the starvation of the masses.

The fatal mistake of the Premier, originating, perhaps, in his peculiar constitution, has been his want of openness. The fairest designs which ever loomed upon his heart, his nature has compelled him to approach by stealth. Educated amidst cold conventionalities, he is utterly unable to comprehend the power of truth. He feels his way to all his conclusions. Eye-sight, properly speaking, he has none. He believes in nothing but what his own fingers can touch. To him there is no reality beyond his own experience. He prides himself upon being a practical statesman—and accordingly, like most men who exalt practice at the expense of theory, he never trusts himself to the pole-star of a great principle. Hence, he has uniformly aimed to circumvent his conclusions—to steal upon them slyly and at unawares. He never would reveal himself until he had made sure every precaution for his own safety. Even when advancing to great ends, he has looked over his own shoulder as if his intentions were directed another way. Hence, his best acts have exposed his reputation to most damage. The wonder is that he has been able to escape the ignominy which commonly overtakes all deceivers. There must have been a spice of truth in him to have saved his name, amidst so many changes, from irredeemable contempt. And now, at length, he starts from mediocrity to greatness, simply by throwing off all disguise, and revealing himself as he is. He was always clever—he wanted but simplicity of intention to make him great—and Peel, after his confession, becomes in his country's thought, more truly glorious than ever he was before.

The political value of the Premier's confession can hardly be overrated. It was, perhaps, the most deadly blow which could have been aimed at monopoly. He was its chosen and favourite champion. He had at his command, for its defence, a highly disciplined and invincible army of supporters. His long course of

statesmanship guaranteed his fidelity to party. All the motives of a common-place ambition forbid his surrender of the post entrusted to him. He was enjoying the very hey-day of his power. Suddenly he grows pale and trembles. Agitation is depicted on his countenance—alarm is indicated by all his movements. He abdicates his authority—then again resumes it—calls Parliament together—and, bursting through all the barriers of etiquette, presents himself at the very first moment to his own supporters, and in the eye, and within hearing, of the whole world, declares his past life to have been one long mistake, and his future intention to be an effort to retrieve it. There is a moral weight in this unexpected surrender more crushing to the cause of the protectionists than anything which has hitherto befallen them in this contest. It cannot be turned aside, or shuffled off by an ignorant *dictum*, a sly sarcasm, or a clever innuendo. It is a serious reality, which must be seriously dealt with. It is not merely the loss of the ablest advocate which monopoly could retain—but it is his secession to the ranks of opponents, with all the moral influence which office, character, early predilections, and reputation for statesmanship, could lend him. The sole argument in favour of the corn-laws for some months past has been Sir Robert Peel—that argument is now gone, and is thrown into the scale of free-trade.

How the confession will be practically followed up—whether repentance will produce “meet fruits”—in what shape the Premier’s altered views will body themselves forth—remains to be seen. At the moment of writing this we are as much in the dark as the whole country has been since Peel’s resumption of office. But we shall be somewhat surprised if so significant a preface is followed by an insignificant and unsatisfactory measure. The frontispiece raises our hopes by its boldness of conception, and energy of expression. But inasmuch as it is the first time we have seen the Tamworth baronet rise to the elevation of heroism, we must hesitate predicting a glorious and beneficent close of his career as a statesman.

THE BALLOT. WHICH BALLOT?

THE people of England hunger and thirst after an improvement of their political institutions. If they are apparently in the act of getting rid of some of the most flagrant consequences of the defects, they are no more in a state of reconciliation with the evils which were the cause, than the man who has just witnessed the cicatrising of one grievous outburst of diseased action, is at peace with the constitutional taint which was the cause and will be the cause of more.

One source of purification to which they had long been looking, had been the ballot for members of Parliament; and, behold, they are given the ballot for the militia. The juxtaposition is not fortuitous; and it must be turned to good.

An ordinary man—that is to say, about nineteen men out of twenty, which may be taken as a description of what the Scotch would call “the ordinar’ of men”—not only cannot get the ballot to preserve him from being kicked by his betters for his vote, but he cannot get the vote at all, with whatever sauce of kicks diluted. He is not worthy of a vote among a million; he is a reptile, a contemptible specimen of Heaven’s manufacture, who includes not in himself the elements, nor the hundredth part of them, which go to compose a creature worthy of a vote. An ass may have a vote, and he who has the ass, as in Franklin’s story, may give the ass a voice; but the creature spoken of, the English serf of the “slave class,” is not sufficing to have a vote, neither can anybody have a vote by reason of him. If he would but be “written down an ass,” he would take a step in political society.

But let imposition on him be in question, and his ass-like virtues start into immediate request. What a shame, if he, with all his nice interests in his happy country, should decline bearing the burden which he was made to bear, and the rich not! Where could be the use of riches, if the burthens of the country could not be thrown upon the poor? Property is the great invention of civilised life, and the way to secure property is to make those who have nothing, pay for its defence. If the knaves cannot pay in purse, they can pay in person; only let care be taken that they *do* pay. The rich shall redeem himself, for it may be one day’s income; but the poor shall lay down a hundred days’ income, and give up his income for all his other days besides. This is what men meet in society for, and for this it is that wonderful, in fact, almost miraculous, constitutions are framed, where human genius is racked to give to the rich and to the poor the portions that suit the framers.

There was peril about this, and particularly just now. As guns burst in a frost, so a peculiarly dangerous season is chosen for the experiment. The world has made a stride since militia scarlet was worn last; and questions will arise which former colonels and adjutants never dreamed of. Are Temperance Societies to be allowed in militia regiments? or is every man to make a beast of himself at the drum-head for the honour of his colours? May Complete Suffragists be balloted, or being balloted must they cease to be Complete Suffragists? If a Chartist, in his sleep, should call out “No vote, no fight!” will it be flat mutiny? or will allowance be made for his plea, that it was a constitutional tendency? Of the Working Classes, at least one in four is a hot politician. More than ten thousand hot politicians, therefore, are to have muskets put into

their hands; to say nothing of the chance of their beating the other three-fourths by sympathy. Truly, if the working classes have any plans, which want a musket and a bayonet at the end of it to help to their performance, the charity of the Government is beyond all praise, which puts attainment within their reach.

It is to be feared there has been a blunder in the reckoning of the military counsellors. Men of ardent minds and sick of plodding industry, may be collected into regiments, and framed into machines which may do the behest of the framers. And even there, report is at fault if there have not been wheels within a wheel, which no adjutant heard of, and which would have matched the riding over of the Dragon Guards that joined Dutch William, if the conjuncture contemplated had ever come. What, then, will be done among men who are taken by force from an industry they were rising by, and who bring with them into the service the hate of the violence done to them, and the burning desire to put an end to it on opportunity?

And what is it all for? It is not the will or the work of the present Government; but it is the work of the war party in the state, eager to provide for and provoke the war they expect to raise when a “demise of the crown,” as it is tenderly called in England, shall put France into more or less of a state of crisis. For this we are to shoulder arms, and give up the growth of virtue which may have accrued in thirty years. For this the existing generation is to be marched back again to all the miseries and degradations of the old, and to leave the legacy of grief and shame to its successors. And all this is to be inflicted on men who have no vote in making the laws they suffer by, and because they have no vote nor are intended to have.

Surely the angel that is the minister of bringing good out of evil might make something out of this state of things if he looked to it.

ICHABOD!

WE recollect having met with a paraphrase of a French epigram, from the elegant pen of Mr. Moore, touching a certain man about town, who was incessantly encountered at every conceivable place of public resort, and which closed with the following lines:—

“A friend of his one evening said,
As home he took his pensive way,
‘Upon my word, I fear Jack’s dead—
I’ve met him but three times to-day!’”

The Jack of the House of Lords is certainly Lord Brougham; and when he shall cease to speak once, at least, in each debate, the public, though mindful of his sham decease in the north, will conclude, that this modern representative of the dancing Chancellor is really dead—and no mistake.

Yet it is not of the frequency of Lord Brougham’s speeches that we complain. Mr. Burke committed the same fault against that vulgar vanity by which little minds make themselves scarce, as the only means of making themselves valuable. But Mr. Burke was only the dinner-bell to the booby squires; whereas, these form the only class to whom Lord Brougham is *not* a dinner-bell—always abating its exhilarating effect.

Indeed, there is something singularly humiliating in the contemplation of Lord Brougham’s character and course. They take off a discount from the value of human nature itself: the record of them shakes public confidence in character, and produces an effect in the moral world analogous to a sudden depression of funds in the money market. The decay of his greatness has not even the charm of a ruin, for of that charm stillness and perpetuity are essential elements; but in this melancholy case, we have the spectacle of a ruin constantly patched up, by an unnatural process, into distasteful novelties, the pointed arch now elongating to the parallelogram, and then curved to an ill-turned oval; or, if we may change the figure, the corpse of a hero galvanised into the mimicry of life.

Lord Brougham’s latest exposure of himself, has been of a singularly unfortunate kind. The new and important movement in favour of unrestricted commerce, to which government have been at length compelled to yield, by the sovereign voice of the British people—indicated, as distinctly as etiquette would permit, in the speech from the throne—affords an opportunity which, of course, Brougham would not neglect, to push his spavined and broken-winded steed into a canter in the rush of the debate. It was truly a melancholy exhibition; even Swift and Curran, amidst the conscious decay of their noble faculties, do not afford material for more pensive reflection. That Henry Brougham should not dare to oppose the principles of an arch-monopolist without “noble-friending” him *usque ad nauseam*, and mitigating every expression of dissent from his principles by proportionate asseverations of attachment to his person!—that the man who was once Henry Brougham should, after years of total and intentional inactivity, occupy the attention of the Legislature on so momentous and critical a subject, with complaints that his opinions and arguments, forsooth, had not received sufficient attention! Alas, alas! for human nature in general, and disappointed vanity in particular. But with all the strength of his well-known propensity, it was impossible that Lord Brougham should confine his observations wholly to himself. The Anti-corn-law League was, of course, the body against which, with his morbid vanity, he must necessarily inveigh; and this for an obvious reason. The League, no less despising the political

character of Lord Brougham than regarding his intellectual power as matter of history, had passed him by in their magnificent movement; they never sought his adhesion, and, indeed, as a body, forgot even his existence; so that the man of whom it was once eloquently said, that he broke the rocks in pieces to make a pathway for the people, became, in this cause, as one of a Roman rabble running after a triumphal procession to see the show; and how has he revenged himself on the enlightened negligence of the Anti-corn-law League? The constitutional lawyer, as he presumptuously styles himself, confounds the patriotic effort of the League—based on the fundamental maxims of the British constitution, which, at least, endow the freeholder with the franchise—with that corrupt method by which votes are purchased and coerced by the aristocracy. He thus proclaims it unconstitutional to carry out the first principles of the British constitution. It was once said of Lord Brougham that it was a pity he had not a little law—for, if he had, he would know something of everything. Without venturing an opinion on the profundity of his lordship’s legal attainments, we feel justified in saying that the principle he has laid down on this part of the conduct of the Anti-corn-law League would disgrace the merest tyro in constitutional law. But he goes still further, and, in contempt of the authority of Bentham (*lex talionis*, by the way, for no man ever more thoroughly despised Brougham than that illustrious jurist), he attempts a distinction between what is legal and what is constitutional; affirming that the conduct of the League, though perfectly consistent with the laws of the realm is, at the same time, perfectly unconstitutional.

We are really almost ashamed to controvert the arguments of Lord Brougham on this subject, and the examples by which they are illustrated. He holds that the voluntary contribution of money for political purposes is unconstitutional, and that any agitation intended to influence the opinions and decisions of the representative body is equally so. “This,” in the words of Lord Liverpool, “is too bad.” If Lord Brougham is blind and deaf to the decisions of posterity, he still might call to mind the past. If he is oblivious of his fame, he still might recollect his name—

“Quis tulerit Gracchos de seditione querentes.”

If we have ever had the “schoolmaster abroad,” Lord Brougham has been of all men living the instigator of voluntary effort, the very preceptor of popular agitation. Nor, indeed, can the agitation of popular measures be dissociated from the very theory of the representative principle. Yet this is the man who stultifies a life of political activity by denouncing the very principle which gave consistency and greatness to all that deserves to be called his political career.

And whence, from all the magazine of contemporary history, does he draw his illustrations? Will it be believed that the main case which he adopts is the abolition of slavery! Why, if ever there was a measure carried in the teeth of aristocratic and even legislative influence, by popular agitation and voluntary effort, this was surely that particular measure. Can Lord Brougham forget the innumerable meetings, and powerful speeches, and munificent subscriptions, and electioneering pledges with reference to this subject, all brought to bear on the decisions of the Legislature, and respecting which in his better days he would have proudly said, “*Quorum pars magna fui?*” And, even if he can forget the operations of the Anti-slavery Society—if he can dose himself to forget Messrs. Wilberforce, Clarkson, Granville Sharpe, and Buxton, can he forget the AGENCY Anti-slavery Society, formed for agitation alone, devoted to parliamentary elections, and, as he well knows, the proximate instrument of the triumph?

But perhaps the most infelicitous of his lordship’s illustrations, in distinguishing between the legal and the constitutional, is that which has reference to the exercise of royal prerogative in the creation of peers. On this point it is worth while to hear him:—

“He would show them, said his lordship, a case that every man would admit to be perfectly legal. The Sovereign might create 500 peers, he might march in amongst them 500 peers, and, as he was not confined with respect to number, neither was he confined with reference to the respectability of the persons he desired to ennoble. He might ennoble 500 soldiers of a battalion of hussars; he might make every one of them a peer of the realm, with the most undeniable, imprescriptible, and indefeasible right to take a seat in that house. The Sovereign might march the battalion of new-made peers into the house, and overwhelm the votes of that house, and carry any measure by a majority of voices. It would be perfectly lawful; there would be nothing illegal in it; there would be nothing in the act in the slightest degree contrary to law. It would be the exercise of the most undeniable right which the Crown possessed—that of creating peers; but the Chancellor who put the Great Seal to those five hundred patents of peerage, as surely as it fell on the ears of the Commons House of Parliament, the fact of the act which he had done—the crime which he had committed, perfectly lawful, but perfectly unconstitutional—a gross breach of the constitution—a high crime and misdemeanour—so surely would the head of that high office, if not in fact, at least by right and by desert, fall for the crime which he had committed.”

Why have we, or has his lordship, entirely lost the faculty of recollection? Why, if we are not as utterly oblivious and demented as Lord Brougham seems to be, he held the great seal at the time when this identical proposition was made—when, under the threat of a swamping creation of peers, the members of the Upper House vacated their seats in a panic at the passing of the Reform Bill, and suffered judgment to go by default. How is it, then, that Lord Brougham did not, lose his head? How grateful

should he be to the clemency of the nation; especially as that nation must by this time be fully convinced that of all personal forfeitures which he could incur, that would have been the least!

But it would be futile to track Lord Brougham through the labyrinth of inconsistency and fatuity in which he has chosen to close his strange career. His own resolute officiousness and self-conceit, must keep him perpetually before the eye of the public so long as his political life shall continue, and when that shall "cease and determine" he will probably be "mourned till Pity's self be dead," as the most melancholy example of genius, energy, and learning, blasted in their influence and destroyed in their essence by the pitiful preference of self to the noblest order of fame, and the greatest interests of mankind.

THE NEW LONDON TUNNEL.—The plans and sections, splendidly engraved, of the railway tunnel under London, are now before the public, and excite universal admiration. There is something magnificent in this scheme of the London and Birmingham Company, and of their engineer, Mr. Stephenson. The works are proposed to commence at the Camden-town station, crossing the Hampstead-road by two arches of seventy feet span, and then, by means of viaduct and embankment, progressing to the western side of Maiden-lane, where the subterranean communication begins. Thence, below street, square, crescent, and church, varying from thirty to a hundred feet deep, the tunnel is carried to the City terminus, on the site of the old Fleet Prison. The tunnel will be about two miles in length; the whole extension better than three. There is something fascinating in the idea of such a gigantic work; and to the metropolis it will be an incalculable benefit, superseding ponderous waggons, the inconvenience of passengers, and part of that interminable bustle and roar which agitate the "mighty heart" of London.—*London Correspondent of Inverness Courier.*

UNIVERSITY DEGREE.—On Saturday last, the Senatus Academicus of the University of St. Andrews unanimously conferred the degree of D.D. on the Rev. Wm. Lindsay Alexander, minister of the Congregationalist church, Edinburgh.—*Glasgow Examiner.*

A STEAM-ENGINE BY POST.—Mr. G. Cartwright received an order on Friday week for a miniature steam-engine, on the high pressure principle, for which he sent to Messrs. Chadman Brothers, Sheffield; and, strange to say, though the engine had to be built, he received it, enclosed in a letter, by post, on Tuesday morning! The engine was complete in every detail, accompanied by a boiler and a fire-grate, containing fuel. At the request of several astonished beholders, it was kept in motion the whole of Tuesday.—*Preston Guardian.*

THE LEAGUE FUND.—Since our last publication this fund has been increased, so far as Manchester and its neighbourhood is concerned, by about £2,300; the principal new subscriptions being £1,000 from Mr. John Munn, and £500 from Mr. J. Lord, of Bacup. The total amount of the Manchester subscription is now £80,536; and Coalbrookdale has subscribed £2,067; Preston, £2,300; and Oldham, £2,265. Adding to these amounts the subscriptions at Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Stroud, and in the West Riding of Yorkshire, the total amount raised is about £160,000, or two-thirds of the entire amount asked for by the League, in the short space of a month.—*Manchester Times.* The Edinburgh League Fund amounts to very little short of £3,000. The Dundee subscription is now upwards of £2,700, and that in Kirkcaldy, which is still more creditable, to £2,000.

SOIREE IN HONOUR OF MR. THOMAS DUNCOMBE, M.P. FOR FINSBURY.—On Wednesday evening a public tea-party and soiree was held at the Crown and Anchor, in the Strand, in honour of Mr. Duncombe, and to testify their approbation of his political conduct, his unceasing advocacy of the rights of labour, and his services in the people's cause. The meeting was crowded. Mr. Wakley, M.P., presided; Mr. Christie, M.P., was also present. Speeches were delivered by the chairman; Mr. Duncombe (in reply to a written address which was presented to him), Mr. M'Grath, Mr. Dunning, Mr. T. Clark, (who spoke to the sentiment of the people's charter), Mr. Christie, Cooper, the Chartist poet, and Fergus O'Connor, who in the course of his speech said,

Indeed they might be surprised that he was there that night, when he told them that he had that day had a message from his Grace the Duke of Richmond, offering to purchase his support for the landed aristocracy [shame]; but not all the money of the Duke of Richmond, and all the coffers of the state, could purchase a single line from him adverse to the cause of the working classes.—[Can this be true?]

The meeting, which had been most fully attended throughout, separated after giving three cheers for the charter, and a similar compliment to Messrs. Duncombe, Wakley, and Christie.

The son of Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton is now at the hydropathic establishment, Sudbrook-park, Perslam, Surrey, taking a course of treatment for the improvement of his health. Sir Edward himself is on his way to Naples.

THE "PECULIAR BURDENS ON LAND."—The agriculturists will be pleased to hear, that their complaint, as to the burden of the (poor) rates, will not be dismissed without a hearing. It is destined to occupy a prominent place in the impending debate. An order has, we believe, been issued from the Home-office to the Poor Law unions for a return of the rates in the past year, distinguishing the amount levied on land, and that on other kinds of property. This peculiar burden, therefore, will have every chance of a hearing. Should the ill-used class who are groaning under its unequal pressure possess any genuine statistics on the subject likely to conflict with the brazen tables of an official return, we advise them to set to work immediately. At present there is a serious probability that the return will indicate at least as great a burden on other kinds of property as on land.—*Times.*

COMPULSORY MILITIA SERVICE.

THE ANTI-MILITIA MOVEMENT.

THE BIRMINGHAM MEETING.—In the postscript of our last number we gave a brief account of the meeting held in the Town-hall, on Tuesday evening, under the auspices of the Birmingham Peace Society, for the purpose of considering the proposal of the Government to organise the militia, and petition Parliament to make provision for the settlement of international disputes by arbitration. The character of the meeting may be gathered from the following sketch, given by the *Birmingham Pilot* :—

The deep interest felt in the subject was at once evidenced by the numbers who flocked towards the Town-hall long before the hour of meeting, and the tremendous rush made for admittance when the doors were thrown open. The hall was soon filled; and by eight o'clock there was scarcely standing room even in the organ gallery; while in the very windows of the great gallery, men and women were perched, and stuck there for hours, in the most uncomfortable position. While the multitude was thus dense within the hall, the scene outside cannot be described. For two hours there was one continued stream of persons going and returning, disappointed of admittance; and we feel perfectly confident that we speak within the mark when we say that as many went away from the door as got within, and the number present could not be less than from five to six thousand.

The following is an extract from Mr. Burnet's address on the occasion :—

Really, if I could consent to become a soldier—if I held the war principle—I think I should be satisfied that, in the state of Europe, or the world, at this time, there is nothing that calls for the movement at present. The Ministers thus call upon you to submit your consciences to violence, your persons to violence, and your property to violence, when there is no necessity for it whatever. Think, then, as you proceed in agitating this great question, of yourselves, of your wives, and your families, and say to the Government, you shall not adopt a scheme by which the plague shall be introduced into the circles that are endeared to us by all the ties of nature—by all the ties of affection [applause]. Rise, like men, and you may be sure that the Government will listen to you; quail before them, like cowards, and you will find they will ride rough-shod over you. Every Government has done that in every nation of the earth; and without calling myself a prophet, I can say, every Government will do the one so long as the subjects do the other. It is only when the people are fools that the governors are tyrannical. If, therefore, you allow your governors to be tyrants, you know, so far as my opinion goes, who are the fools [applause]. Now, proceed upon this principle; use every effort to redeem your age—to redeem the world from this singular attempt to reintroduce the barbarism and fatality of the times that have long since passed away into oblivion. Let us hear no more of the thunder, let us hear no more of the lightning, of war. And if it be contrary to the constitution of the British empire that there should be a standing army, let me remind you, that it is equally contrary to that constitution that there should be a militia.

The people of Birmingham (says the *Pilot*) must not rest satisfied with the petition passed at the Town-hall meeting being signed by the chairman: it ought to be signed by the inhabitants generally; and every Dissenting congregation should petition for the same object.

GREAT PUBLIC MEETING AT BRISTOL.—A great meeting was held in Bristol, on Wednesday evening, in the Large Room, Broadmead, for the purpose of agreeing to proceedings in opposition to the contemplated government measure for the enrolment of the militia force of the kingdom. The immense building was crowded. The chair was taken by R. Charlton, Esq., who opened the proceedings and explained the object of the meeting; by whom, and Messrs. John Burder and J. J. Wait, R. Norris, Esq., H. C. Howell, Esq., Fred. Wills, Esq., and Nathaniel Pearce, the resolutions, and a petition to Parliament against embodying the militia, were unanimously agreed to. The *Bristol Mercury* publishes a full report of the proceedings. The spirit of the meeting will be gathered from one of the resolutions (adopted unanimously) and from one or two extracts from the speeches delivered. The resolution to which we refer runs as follows :—

2. That, should the proposed enrolment of the militia actually take place, this meeting earnestly recommend the friends of peace to consider whether it be not their duty peacefully to endure all the legal consequences rather than consent to serve, or take any steps to procure a substitute, or in any manner to sanction the assumed right of Government to compel men to take arms against their conscientious convictions, or to subject them to any penalty because of their refusal.

The chairman concluded an admirable address in these terms :—

They might depend upon it that, with all its abominations, the present recruiting was preferable to the militia system. He hoped that by the expression of popular opinion the minister might be led to abandon it. But should he not, and should it, in the face of all remonstrance, become the law of the land, it would then become a serious question to consider what course it behoved them to take. A poor but honest working-man had told him that if he should be drawn he would go to prison; and from what he (the chairman) knew of his character he believed that he would do so [loud cheers]. Sure he was that they would find imprisonment in the gaol incomparably less irksome than imprisonment in a barracks [cheers]. Any man of Christian feeling would be incomparably more happy in serving six months on the New-cut or at Lawford's gate, than in being enclosed in the barracks at Horfield, with the red lash hanging over him, and learning to degrade himself and butcher his fellow-men [cheers]. And if any of those present should resolve, neither by themselves nor a substitute, to learn to slaughter their fellow-creatures, but to go peacefully to prison and suffer the penalties of the law, they would carry with them the sympathies and the prayers of all sincere Christians [cheers]. And, in carrying out that great Christian precept, rather to suffer wrong than to do it, they could cheer each other by the language of encouragement which one of the Christian martyrs addressed to his brother martyr at the stake, "Be of good cheer, brother Ridley, for this day there is lighted up a candle in England which, with God's grace, never shall be extinguished."

Mr. Norris avowed the same sentiments :—

He was glad to know that the principles of peace were being generally adopted, and that associations had been

formed in this city and elsewhere, not to provide substitutes, but to sustain those who go to prison, and endure the utmost extremity which the law could enforce. That was the course he recommended every lover of peace to pursue [cheers]. He knew not what was the punishment of the law, neither did he care: that principle he had resolved to act upon, and, with submission, he desired to be drawn [great cheering].

Mr. Howell also concluded his address by saying that he would rather go to prison or death than go to the battle-field to slaughter his fellow-men [great cheering].

LEEDS.—Already nearly 10,000 names have been signed to the petitions for this object in Leeds. It will be easy enough to get 50,000 attached to it. Let every man and woman sign. In this matter, as in many others, women can claim a just right to do so—for they will be sad sufferers when the juggle comes. We earnestly advise the getting up of a public meeting in Leeds, as a testimony against the matter which we have condemned in this article. We hear, indeed, that steps are already taken to this end, and that a requisition to the mayor (who has signed the petition), has received the sanction of large numbers of men of high character and influence.—*Leeds Times.*

At Manchester petitions are lying for signature in various parts of the town.

NEWCASTLE.—Public meetings have been held this week—one in Leeds, the other at Birmingham—at which resolutions were adopted condemnatory of the supposed intention of the Government to enrol the militia. A similar meeting is announced in Newcastle for Tuesday next.—*Gateshead Observer.*

A vigorous movement is already opposing itself to this infamous proposal. Petitions against this gratuitous and unholy invasion on the rights and liberties of the people have been sent from various towns and communities. The inhabitants of Blackburn will do well to follow the example that has been set them to resist by every constitutional means this contemplated invasion of their hearths and homesteads.—*Blackburn Mercury.*

We will not further enlarge upon this subject than by stating our opinion that the present proposal for the embodiment of a national militia should be immediately met with petitions of remonstrance from every part of the United Kingdom. There are in Parliament men who would give such petitions their ablest advocacy, and we think we can vouch for our own members lending their aid to any remonstrances which may arise from this locality.—*Preston Guardian.*

ENROLMENT OF THE MILITIA.—We are happy to be able to state that a preliminary meeting was held at the town library, on Thursday, to consider the best course to be pursued in opposing the tyranny contemplated by Government in re-organising the militia. There were present the Revs. Stevenson and Green, and Messrs. T. and A. Burgess, J. Collier, E. S. Ellis, C. Candler, T. Cook, and G. Pegg. Mr. Collier presided. It was agreed to convene a public meeting, providing such assistance could be obtained as would ensure its success. A committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements, and it was determined to seek the aid of Joseph Sturge, Esq., and the Rev. J. Burnet, of London, and George Thompson, Esq. Whether a meeting be held or not, a petition will be prepared immediately, so that the voice of the inhabitants of Leicester may mingle with the prayers and remonstrances of other towns against the renewal of a species of tyranny which is both hateful and oppressive.—*Leicester Mercury.*

THE WAKEFIELD PEACE SOCIETY are taking active measures for the purpose of petitioning Parliament against the re-organisation of the militia. The general feeling of the working class seems to be opposed to the new measure, and "the friends of peace" have determined to give the poorer classes an opportunity of expressing their opinions.

BOSTON.—THE MILITIA.—Great excitement prevails throughout the country in consequence of the proposed embodiment of the militia after thirty years of peace, and when, as many think, there is little fear of war, and no necessity for it. At Boston, a public meeting, convened by the Mayor, in compliance with a numerous and respectfully signed requisition, is to be held on Monday evening next, and will, it is expected, be followed by many more throughout the country. The requisition is signed by six ministers of religion, and nearly 40 other individuals.—*Stamford Mercury.*

EDINBURGH.—We are glad to observe (says the *Edinburgh Chronicle*) that a great meeting has been held in Birmingham on the subject, at which very decided resolutions were passed; and it is with equal satisfaction we learn that the working men of Edinburgh begin to talk over the necessity of opposing passive resistance to the apprehended injustice. The following is an extract from a working man to the editor of that journal :—

In the workshop where I have the honour to be, a declaration has been circulated and signed by all, or nearly all, my fellow-workmen, to the effect that we will, if backed by the working men of Edinburgh, take a decided stand against being drawn out as soldiers, and will rather suffer the penalty of the law than submit to it. We are of opinion that this movement—to be spread rapidly and decisively—needs but to be known to be begun. Let the industrious class unite as one in the determination that they will neither be militia-men nor provide substitutes, and our success is certain. These agitations being but preliminary to a great public demonstration on an early day, you will hasten that demonstration, and oblige more than me by inserting this communication.

DUMFERMLINE.—On Thursday night, Mr. Vincent addressed a spirited meeting in the Independent chapel of this town, on the state of the country, and the future prospects of the people; Professor M'Michael in the chair. The worthy professor introduced Mr. Vincent to the meeting in a flattering speech. Mr. Vincent addressed the meeting for upwards of two hours. He defended free-trade principles, and expounded the social and political reasons of the aristocracy for upholding the corn-laws. The folly of giving aristocracy "a preponderance" in the government (which Lord John Russell stated the Reform Bill was intended to do) was clearly shown; and the beauty and truth of the democratic principle were also enforced. The

address was loudly cheered throughout. Mr. Cuthbertson, secession minister, moved the vote of thanks to Mr. Vincent, and strongly denounced the projected ballot for a militia. James Inglis, Esq., manufacturer, seconded the vote of thanks, and hoped something would be done on the militia question to give a tone to the country. Mr. Vincent, in returning thanks, said his mind was made up: he would not serve himself, and he would not hire any other person to serve for him; and he hoped this would be the universal sentiment. An interesting conversation then took place, which ended in the appointment of a committee of clergymen, manufacturers, and working men, to call a meeting at an early day to consider the propriety of forming an "Anti-Militia League," to maintain the families of all who may be sent to prison for refusing to serve in the militia. [Let the working classes, and the young men of the middle and commercial classes everywhere adopt this course, and the ballot will never be proceeded with.]

STIRLING, N. B., JAN. 23, 1846.—One of the largest public meetings which has been held in this town for a long time back, took place last night (Friday) in the Justiciary Court room, for the purpose of forming a Mutual Protection Society, in the event of the militia being ordered out this year. Baillie Dick was appointed chairman of the meeting. A large proportion of those present, consisted of the more affluent of the townsmen. After appointing office bearers for conducting the affairs of the society, it was unanimously resolved to petition Parliament against so un-called-for a measure. A strong feeling of hostility was manifested by all present, against enrolling peaceful citizens into bands of soldiers, by compulsory laws.

COMPENSATION TO THE LANDED INTEREST.—"A Paisley Weaver Callant," through the *League*, requests that the following account be presented and paid before one farthing of compensation is paid to the landed interest for giving up the corn-laws:—

Messrs. the Dukes Wellington, Richmond, and Co., Drs.
to England, Ireland, and Scotland.
To thirty years' plunder at £36,000,000 per annum,
£1,080,000,000.

THE PRICE OF BREAD IN THE METROPOLIS.—The price of bread in the east end of the metropolis has, within the last two or three days, been raised from 9d. to 9½d. for the best, and from 8d. to 8½d. per four pound loaf of an inferior quality. On the Surrey side of the river the price remains as before, viz., best, 9½d., second ditto, 8d.; some sold as high as 10d. In the neighbourhood of Chelsea and Brompton, the price of bread is, with very few exceptions, 10d. According to the present price of bread, it is nearly twice as dear as it was this time last year.—*Globe*.

A MEDICAL MAN CONVICTED.—On Tuesday week, at Cheltenham, a coroner's jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Mr. C. Gregory, jun., a medical student, who had caused the death of two children by an overdose of tartar-emetie. His father is a surgeon, and keeps a druggist's shop in the town; and the young man, while at home for the Christmas vacation, dispensed drugs, and got himself into his present predicament.

THE ROAD AND THE RAIL.—All the coaches between Norwich and London have ceased to run, the last being the mail through Bury St. Edmund's, which was discontinued on the 6th instant. The others have been discontinued for some time. The sole means of land conveyance between Norwich and London is now by the Norfolk and Eastern Counties Railway; but though six or seven coaches direct to London have been discontinued, and about 700 horses thrown off that road, there are now thirty coaches constantly running from various towns to the principal stations between Yarmouth and London.

A LETTER TRAP.—On Thursday evening last a gentleman of Gloucester having put a newspaper into the hole of the box at the post-office, was surprised to find that it would not descend into the basket. He pushed, and pushed again, and still it stuck fast, and therefore he went round to the door to notify the circumstance. The post-office clerks, equally surprised as the applicant, naturally turned to the box itself for an explanation of it, when they discovered an "artful dodge," which, had it been successful, would have seriously damaged the credit of the establishment, by cheating a large number of persons of their letters and papers. A silk bag had been let down into the aperture, bullets being placed in each corner to distend it, and it was secured to the mouth of the aperture by hooks of wire. The bag was nearly full of letters and papers which had been dropped into the hole, and this was the reason the paper through which the discovery was made would not descend. Probably the practice of this trick would account for many of the post-office losses. Unfortunately, the trap was not left until the thief came to remove the bag and the spoil, and therefore he is quite unknown.—*Gloucester Chronicle*.

REMARKABLE, IF TRUE.—It is currently reported, on authority which is considered to be satisfactory, that the wife of Hedges, the poor fellow whose life was so tragically terminated on the Norfolk Railway, had a remarkable premonition of the sad catastrophe, on the night before it occurred. She awoke with a scream, which was followed by hysteria. On her recovery, she narrated to her husband a dream, in which she imagined he had been killed by an accident to the train. The impression it made on her mind was so strong, that she implored him not to drive the engine that day, when, in opposition to her urgent entreaty, he left her for the purpose of joining the train. She was seized with a second hysterical fit. She never saw him alive again; and it is easy to imagine the intensity of her anguish, when, within four-and-twenty hours, she stood by the side of his horribly mutilated corpse.—*Norfolk News*.

A SIGN OF GOOD SENSE.—We hear that it is with great difficulty that recruits for the army are now obtained in the country districts, and that the cause is supposed to arise, in some measure, from the extent of the railways in progress of construction.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

LATEST FROM THE UNITED STATES.

The packet-ship, *Henry Clay*, brings intelligence from New York to the 7th inst. The rapacity of the United States Government seems to be quite beyond control. A motion had been introduced into the House of Representatives, to give Great Britain notice of the termination at the end of twelve months' of the termination of the joint occupancy of the Oregon territory. This measure had been supported by, amongst others, Mr. J. Q. Adams, but was lost on a division, it being required to be carried by a majority of two-thirds. The vote stood, Ayes, 102; Noes, 89. This matter, which had come up as a resolution from the committee on foreign affairs, was decided to be referred to a committee of the whole house; but upon a motion that it be made a special order for the first Monday in February, it was lost as above stated.

Most strenuous efforts continued to be made by the peace party, and in the *Courier and Inquirer Journal of Commerce and Commercial Advertiser of New York* articles deprecating the war feeling, which it was evident was receiving an immense impetus, were being daily inserted; and appeals to the reason, instead of the passions of the people, continued to be made by them in the very best spirit; yet it is really greatly to be feared that a war will be precipitated before the representatives of the people can be brought to their senses. The height to which the fever raged may perhaps be judged of by the fact, that at the commencement of the fourth day's debate the Hon. Felix G. McConnell in sober seriousness moved the adoption of resolutions for the annexation of Ireland.

Throughout the whole debate, the cry of the whole of Oregon or none was heard, and no compromise whatever was, for a moment, listened to. The House being democratic by a very large majority, all kinds of Oregon bills and resolutions will pass there. It is to the Senate that we must look for a continuation of the blessings of peace.

"My Washington friend," says the correspondent of the *Chronicle*, "writes me to the effect that the President personally favours Mr. Calhoun's policy, that the Administration does not desire war, and that Mr. Buchanan, as it is rumoured, will hardly remain in the cabinet. The resignation of Mr. Buchanan would be a source of regret. He is a man of immense ability, favourable to peace and negotiation." The *Norfolk Beacon* says that orders have been received at that port for estimates of the expense of fitting out all the ships of war there, including the line of battle ship, *Pennsylvania*.

Mr. Calhoun had laid before the Senate a series of resolutions, of which the following is the concluding one:—

"Resolved—That the President of the United States, in renewing the offer, in the spirit of peace and compromise, to establish the 49th degree of north latitude as a line between the possessions of the two countries to the said territory, did not 'abandon the honour, the character, and the best interests of the American people,' or exceed the power vested in him by the constitution to make treaties."

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

CURIOUS DISCOVERY.—A young Hungarian of Presburg, searching for some family papers deposited in the garret of a house occupied by a relation, the widow of an advocate, discovered a number of documents which promise to make his fortune. A portion has been sent to the King of the French, who offered a recompense to the finder; but this was declined, and the order of the legion of honour was substituted, with an invitation to visit the King in Paris. Another portion was despatched to the reigning houses of Baden, Lucca, and Tuscany; and money having been refused, orders and a gold snuff-box have been forwarded in acknowledgment. The Emperor of Austria has also received documents of value; but in this case a price was set upon them by the discoverer—the honour of being nominated Chamberlain; and this distinction, although reserved for persons of high descent, has actually been conferred upon the ignoble youth of Presburg. It is conjectured that the papers sent to Louis Philippe are letters written by his father to an Austrian minister during the time of the French Republic; and that those sent to the ducal houses relate to property. No opinion is formed as to the batch sent to the Emperor. It is supposed that the papers had been lodged for security with the advocate during the invasion of Austria by Napoleon.

France, with a population of 34,000,000, has only 250,000 electors!

NEGRO REPRESENTATION IN JAMAICA.—At an election for a member to fill a vacancy in the Jamaica House of Representatives, in October last, the two rival candidates were Mr. Hitchins, formerly a slave-holder, and Mr. Vicars, a coloured gentleman, and formerly a slave. The contest lasted two days, and was conducted throughout with great animation on both sides, but without popular tumult, riot, or bloodshed. Mr. Hitchins was successful, having received 213 votes; while Mr. Vicars stood 168.

THE KING OF HANOVER has nearly recovered from his late illness, which appears to have been of a more serious nature than was originally stated.

FAMINE PROSPECTS IN SWEDEN.—Accounts from Stockholm, of the 30th ult., state, that Sweden is suffering severely from the effects of scarcity of provisions. The greatest alarm lest a complete famine might ensue was felt in many parts, particularly in Uppland. The government had made large purchases of corn from Russia, and had likewise afforded pecuniary relief to the suffering peasantry. So urgent had been the distress, that the troops had been employed to break the ice, for the sake of facilitating the approach of corn-laden ships.

THE CAUCASUS.—The *Frankfort Journal* contains a letter from St. Petersburg, of the 4th, which states that twenty-five prisoners of war, recently returned from the Caucasus to Teflis, announce that the mountaineers are receiving succours from men of all countries, Mussulmans, Poles, Italians, English, and French,

who furnish them with ammunition, or render them the services of architects, surgeons, and engineers, although they take no part in the contest, which the nation alone sustains. Three members of "Young Italy" are among the number. The Russians would not be able to make great efforts in their next campaign, from their diminution of their strength, and the non-arrival of the reinforcements demanded by Prince Woronzow.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE PASHA OF EGYPT'S DAUGHTER.—"This is the last folly I will ever commit," said Mehemet Ali, as he gave orders to expend half-a-million sterling on the marriage of his daughter with Kiamil Pasha, in order that the East might with one voice proclaim him the merriest as well as the luckiest of the pashas of the Ottoman empire. The bridegroom is approaching forty years of age, and is of the humblest origin. He came from Armenia to Egypt in his youth, and has gradually risen in rank and the favour of the pasha to his present eminent position, in spite of a great deal of opposition and intrigue, by the simple honesty and sincerity of his character. His office is that of *wekeel*, or personal commissioner of the pasha; and the sound practical sense he displays on every occasion has acquired for him a solid reputation. When we say that to this he adds the most popular and affable manners, it may safely be predicted that he will henceforth play a principal part in the affairs of Egypt. The first day of the festivities (which in all lasted six days) there was a grand banquet at the citadel of 800 covers, at four tables, at which the viceroy, the pashas, the consuls-general, and high dignitaries were present. The ladies were admitted to a magnificent supper given by the eldest daughter of the pasha, widow of the late *defterdar* (lord treasurer), where, including the slaves, not less than 3,500 women, from all nations, &c., were present, and it is said 300 cooks were employed to prepare this stupendous feast. The female slaves performed music during the repast, and afterwards pipes, sherbets, ices, &c., were handed round, during which all sorts of dances were performed—Greek, Arabic, Bedouin, &c., and the last were an European quadrille and waltz. Some of the European ladies remained three days and three nights in the harem, where they were provided with everything they could desire.

ANOTHER CLERICAL DELINQUENT.—At the Court of Queen's Bench, on the 17th inst., Mr. Justice Pattison granted a rule to show cause why a criminal information should not be filed against Mr. Barlett, a clergyman of Leominster (lately separated from his wife, and the father of six children), in consequence of a very cruel and scandalous libel which he had thought proper to publish of a lady, who was unhappily his sister-in-law.

Another free-trade meeting of the working classes of Liverpool was held on Thursday night, at which great enthusiasm prevailed. The speeches are characterised by shrewdness and ability. A memorial to the Queen was adopted, praying for a repeal of the corn-laws, and all productive duties.

The *Mark Lane Express* gives a summary of the seventy-three protectionist meetings which have lately been held throughout England. The number of protection societies is 129.

SIR GEORGE HAYTER, who met with an accident at Penhurst in July last, has had a compensation paid him by the railway directors of £2,000.—*Globe*.

PUNISHMENT OF DEATH.—On Lord's-day, Jan. 18, Mr. J. Burns, minister of Enon Chapel, New Church-street, Edgeware-road, delivered a sermon on the executions of Browning and Quermell for murder. The chapel was most densely crowded by an attentive and interested audience.

ANTI-SLAVERY.—An address has been issued, signed by Joseph J. Gurney, Joseph Sturge, and other anti-slavery advocates, recommending the relinquishment of the use of American cotton, Carolina rice, tobacco, and other slave-grown produce. It announces, that an attempt is being made to obtain a supply of articles manufactured exclusively from cotton, the produce of free labour, which will be distinguished by marks to show their genuineness.

GREAT ANTI-SLAVERY MEETING IN GLASGOW.—A public meeting of the members and friends of the Glasgow Emancipation Society, was held on Thursday evening in the City-hall, to hear a lecture on American slavery, by Frederick Douglass, a self-liberated slave from the United States. The meeting was large and respectable.

COLLISION ON THE GREAT NORTH OF ENGLAND RAILWAY.—An accident occurred to the mail-train proceeding north on Friday evening, near the Lessay station, on the Great North of England Railway. The collision broke the engines, damaged several of the carriages, and injured a number of the passengers. One lady was much cut about the head and face, and one gentleman received a severe blow on the leg. The train run into was a coal train on the wrong line, it being changing from one to the other when the mail-train was observed coming.

One of the newspaper advertising agents in London has commenced fifteen actions against as many railway companies, to recover moneys advanced for advertising. Against the Dover and Bristol he seeks to recover four thousand pounds.

SIXTEEN PERSONS IN ONE FAMILY BLEED TO DEATH.—A child at Bilston, in Staffordshire, lately bled to death from a wound on its upper gum, caused by a fall. Two surgeons were called in. At the inquest, Hannah Phillips, grandmother of the deceased, stated that she had lost four children from bleeding to death, and in the family twelve other persons (making altogether sixteen) had bled to death, not one of them having been seriously injured; the injuries being slight cuts or falls. Some of them had bled to death from teeth being drawn. Medical aid had already been procured, but without effect. In the present case the surgeon attributed death to the watery state of the blood.

If rumours, in quarters where the truth may be expected to be known, are to be credited, Sir James Graham has determined to abandon his medical bills.

WELSH SKETCHES.

No. II.

In our second sketch we shall attempt to enumerate some of the remaining classes of the population of Wales, before proceeding to the ecclesiastical and religious position of the country. A brief survey of our social position will enable our English friends to comprehend and to appreciate the efforts made by the people at different periods for the promotion of religion, and the cause of missions.

Next, then, to the gentry stand the freeholders, tradesmen, and farmers. The farmers, for the most part, are able to speak in English, but prefer the Welsh language. While many of them adhere to the Church of England, not a few of their number belong to the different denominations of Dissenters; but as the Churchmen amongst them mingle more than their superiors with the common people, and, occasionally, attend chapels, their prejudice against Dissent is not so strong. Though their property, in the majority of cases, is not large, they command the respect of their inferiors, and, in very many instances, "the blessing of him who is ready to perish."

Among the shopkeepers and other tradesmen, many prefer the English language on account of their having resided for a few years in England, and been educated in that language. Their education is not superficial, and but few strive for self-cultivation after settling in business. When steady and active, they are tolerably well off, although, as a general rule, they are not successful in amassing wealth; but if given to drunkenness and dissipation, as their capital is not large, they soon come to nought. For the sake of patronage and respectability, not a few go to church, at least, one part of the Sabbath, but, in general, they prefer the Dissenters. Village shopkeepers are numerous, but most of them are doomed to waste their days in seclusion and solitude, to obtain a scanty subsistence. The farmers comprise a numerous class, of which the great majority are in low circumstances. Considering the exorbitant rents exacted from them, and the numerous taxes they have to pay, it is, indeed, surprising how they have held up so long under their burdens. In general, they are entirely dependent on the mercy of the landlord, and are but seldom protected by leases and corn rents. Within the last generation, the rents of many farms have been trebled; and, as far as we have the means of observing, in almost all cases, doubled. The soil is not fertile, and requires much draining; but few have the requisite capital to undertake the work. Carnarvon, Merioneth, the upper part of Montgomery, Radnor, the mountainous districts of Brecon, and Cardigan, are the most unfavourable counties for cultivation. Yet a great improvement has taken place, of late years, in farming. There are many good farmers in Anglesea, the vale of Clwyd, Flintshire, the lower part of Montgomeryshire, the vale of Usk in Breconshire, the vale of Towy in Carmarthenshire, and the vale of Glamorgan. We have not had the means of ascertaining the state of agriculture in Pembrokeshire. In most of these districts agricultural societies have been formed. As a science, agriculture has not received much attention. An essay on the subject, written by Aneurin Owen Pughe, Esq., obtained a prize at the Beaumaris Eisteddfod (or Bardic Congress) in 1832. The adjudicators on that occasion recommended, that another essay, written by the eminent Dissenting minister, Mr. Samuel Roberts, A.M., Llanbrynmair, should be printed, on account of "its very great merits," as being, "perhaps, the most beautiful composition in any language." A small monthly periodical, entitled *The Farmer*, is also published, as a supplement to *The Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald*. A few able papers on the subject have likewise appeared, of late, in the different periodicals. Upon the whole, we are inclined to believe, that the farmers who rear sheep and cattle are in a much better condition than those who grow corn. The repeal of the corn-laws will not have much effect in disturbing the tranquillity of the Welsh farmer.

Much has been said of late on the distress of small farmers in England and Ireland, but the investigations of the *Times' Commissioner* during the Rebecca riots prove that parallels to the worst cases may be found in Wales. The condition of this class, if possible, is more deplorable than that of the farm labourers. In the spring and summer seasons they toil from four in the morning till nine or ten at night. Their food is coarse and unwholesome, and consists chiefly of barley bread, oatmeal bread, herrings, potatoes and buttermilk, weak tea, generally without sugar. They also manage, by dint of ingenuity, or rather necessity, to make the butter almost invisible on the bread. The cheese, if any, is always skim. The pig must be sold to pay the rent, or some other calls upon the empty purse, or perhaps, we should say, pocket, as the former article is not often used. Fresh meat and wheaten bread are luxuries, which these sons of the soil seldom, if ever, taste. A trifling loss, such as the loss of a cow or two, a horse, or a few scores of sheep, will upset them entirely; and, indeed, similar misfortunes prove ruinous to many who are in more comfortable circumstances than the aforesaid class, as the writer well knows from bitter experience. In glancing over the condition of our toil-worn fellow countrymen, we are constrained to think that the soothing influence of religion, and it alone, prevents melancholy from swaying its gloomy sceptre over a vast portion of the principality. And think how patiently, how resignedly, and how silently all this is endured! Had Wales not been under the influence of the gospel, its condition might furnish a parallel to that of the Emerald Isle. Well may many of our unfortunate, yet spiritual-minded, countrymen say—

"Work! work! work!
My labour never flags;
And what are its wages? A bed of straw,
A crust of bread and rags;
That shattered roof—and this naked floor—
A table—a broken chair;
And a wall so blank—my shadow I thank
For sometimes falling there!"

From labour and toil they know no relaxation until they have reached that land where "the weary are at rest."

THE UNSUCCESSFUL RAILWAY PROJECTS connected with the West Riding of Yorkshire have already cost, in parliamentary expenses alone, £163,000. It is, moreover, by no means improbable that a further sum of £100,000 may be expended in parliamentary combat before the railways of that single district are decided upon.

A "GRAVE" VOTER.—At a late free-trade meeting, Mr. R. Moore amused the audience by a description of a monopolist qualification which the free-traders had come athwart in purging the register. There was a case, said Mr. Moore, which recently occurred at Highgate, where a man claimed for a 40s. freehold, and when asked where it was, replied it was in the churchyard [laughter]. There it was—a grave. Who was the occupying tenant paying him 40s. a year rent [laughter]? As he could not tell who the occupying tenant was, he was struck off the register.

The Leeds and West Riding Joint Stock Bank has stopped payment.

ACCOMMODATION OF WORKMEN.—Peter Ainsworth, Esq., M.P., having erected a large room for the convenience of the men employed at Beech quarry, in Halliwell, it was opened on Monday week, when Mrs. Ainsworth gave a substantial dinner to the workmen, 110 in number. The room is fitted up with ovens, boilers, stoves, &c., for cooking, and about 200 volumes have been given by the Rev. G. Heaton and other gentlemen, for the use of the workpeople when they are prevented by the weather from following their employment.

SUNDAY TRADING.—A very numerous body of gentlemen, (headed by Mr. B. Hawes, M.P.,) consisting of deputations from St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and a number of other metropolitan parishes, had a long interview, on Saturday afternoon, with Sir James Graham, at the Home-office, on the subject of Sunday trading. The deputation presented memorials, praying for some steps to be taken to restrict, or, if possible, put a stop to, trading on the sabbath.—*Standard*.

DEATH FROM EATING THE ORNAMENTAL PART OF A TWELFTH-CAKE.—At Derby, on Tuesday last, an inquest was held at the Town hall, on view of the body of a child named Sarah Ellen Woollatt, aged four years, who died from eating the ornamental part of a twelfth-cake. At the conclusion of the investigation, the jury returned the following verdict:—"The immediate cause of death was intussusception of the bowels, which appears to have resulted from deceased eating a portion of the ornament of a twelfth-cake." We have heard of several cases in Derby (says the *Reporter*), where parties have not only suffered severely, but narrowly escaped death, from eating twelfth-cake ornaments. We hope the case above reported will have the tendency of deterring confectioners from selling such dangerous commodities, and also prove a salutary caution to the public.

THE PATRON OF WOODSTOCK.—The Duke of Marlborough, the newspapers state, was picked up at Astley's Amphitheatre, drunk, on Monday week, and sent to the station-house. He there gave a fictitious name, and was afterwards "bailed out" by his valet. He did not appear, however, when called upon, but forfeited his recognisances.

A KEY TO PEEL'S POPULARITY.—Sir Robert Peel having come into power on the 1st of September, 1841, Mr. Hawes, in March last, moved for "A return of all places made since the 1st of September, 1841." The return shows a list of 503 places, created in the short space of three years and six months, being at the rate, in round numbers, of three new placemen every week since he came into office. The actual creation of such an immense number of lucrative places after the last general election, in which Sir Robert triumphed, is an assurance to electors that if they support him at the next general contest, the grateful baronet will create 503 more lucrative appointments to reward his faithful adherents.—*Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle*.

THE ARMY.—We believe that an increase in the army, to the extent of 6,000 men, will be proposed in Parliament. It is said that the Duke of Wellington was anxious to add 10,000 men to our military force, but that his Grace's opinion was overruled in the Cabinet.—*Morning Post*.

The *Times* contradicts the rumour of dissension between Sir H. Hardinge, Governor-general of India, and Sir Hugh Gough, Commander-in-Chief.

THE PLANET ASTREA.—The new star has been observed at Berlin, Altona, Hamburg, and Paris. Its dimensions are those of a star of the eleventh magnitude. Its actual volume is compared to that of the four smaller planets already known—Juno, Vesta, Ceres, and Pallas. Herr Hencke, of Berlin, who discovered it, surrendered to Enche the right of naming the new planet; and the latter has called it Astrea. Its revolution will be about four years and a quarter.

THIS MILD SEASON is rife with vegetable prodigies. There was shown us in the early part of the week, the twig of a gooseberry tree from the garden of Joseph Bailey, in Attercliffe, at the end of which was a fully formed berry about the size of a small pea.—*Sheffield Independent*.

THE CASE OF THE SHIP TORY.—Captain Johnstone, who stands charged with three murders on board the ship Tory, on her voyage from Hong Kong to London, and also with cutting and wounding twelve of her crew, has nearly recovered from his severe illness, which prevented him taking his trial at the last session of the Central Criminal Court, and he will be tried at the ensuing session, which commences on the 2nd of February.

THE FAMILY COMPANION.

THE IRISH AGITATOR AT HOME.—The person of O'Connell is too well known to all the English world to need any description here; but no one can avoid being struck with his appearance as you see him at home. That large figure, built like one of the ancient round towers of his country, arranged in a reddish well-padded dressing-gown, and the repeal cap on his head; thus you see him seated at breakfast, generally at a side-table by himself, for the convenience of reading his letters and newspapers, which the postman, early in the morning, brings over the hills from Cahirciveen. The repeal cap is of green velvet, with a narrow gold band surrounding the upper part in vandykes, thus for all the world resembling to the eye a crown. Thus arrayed, the Liberator—a title constantly used by his servants and friends—reminds you of some old king in a German story; but no old king in any German story ever occupied that position of importance, or exercised that moral influence, which the Irish Agitator exercises at this moment. While he opens letter after letter, or glances over the columns of every newspaper published in Ireland, besides English and French ones, which have issued from his capacious post-bag, the workings of a gigantic machinery, in daily operation, for compelling this great country to do justice to his long-abused native land, are laid open to his eye; and thoughts which will to-morrow send out an electric action to every nook of Ireland, sit solemnly on his brow. The accuracy with which that machinery works, and how well all its movements are known to the great director of them, a simple fact may demonstrate. Two days after I left he was setting out on his tour of repeal agitation. At dinner he said, "At Cashel I shall have 500,000 of the Tipperary boys to meet me." The report of that gathering in the *Times* afterwards showed how well founded was the assertion.—*William Howitt*.

AFRICAN MODE OF KILLING ALLIGATORS.—In his recently published work on a visit to South Western Africa, Dr. Toms gives a remarkable instance of the address and intrepidity of the African tribes. While on the banks of the Bengo, said to abound in alligators, crocodiles, and enormous snakes, which often lurk in the impenetrable jungle of reeds, he wished to know whether the river really contained any of the former; and for a small reward, a negro fisherman offered to catch one:—

The intrepid fisherman immediately killed a sucking-pig, and ran a moderately thick stick through the entire length of its body, which he cut open. To the middle of this stick he attached an iron chain, eight or ten feet long, by means of a clamp, and then further elongated the chain by fastening a cord to it. Armed with two strong barbed iron lances, he went on board his light canoe, and put out a short distance from the shore, while he remained in the hut watching his proceedings with great interest and curiosity. At a venture, he threw the pig into the river, and scarcely a minute had elapsed, ere a pair of enormous, widely extended jaws rose above the surface, and quickly disappeared with the treacherous prize. The fisherman took advantage of this moment, to fasten the end of the rope to his canoe, and, also, to attach his two lances by long ropes to the boat. The voracious animal soon devoured his booty, and drew the boat, which, of course, followed his every movement, first to one side of the river, and then to the other, always seeking for the deepest water. The rope being continually drawn tighter and tighter, the alligator darted with great violence above the surface, whereupon the negro vigorously thrust the lance at his head, and the monster again dived. Certain of approaching victory, he stood calmly with uplifted lance, watching for an opportunity of throwing it again, whenever his adversary might rise above the surface. We were much astonished at the man's patient assiduity, for there was once a pause of half an hour, during which the animal did not appear, but as he gradually became weaker, he rose more frequently, and at last always with his jaws wide open. The numerous wounds inflicted by the lance, and consequent loss of blood, so completely exhausted the poor alligator, that he had great difficulty in drawing the boat after him; but suddenly collecting all his remaining strength, he pulled the boat on one side with such violence, that the fisherman fell into the water. In an instant he dexterously flung himself into the boat, and continued to strike his antagonist with his harpoon. The combat lasted nearly an hour and a half, when the alligator yielded, without resistance, to the superior force of the negro, who gradually brought his boat alongside of us, and then suddenly leaping on shore, fastened the rope to a cocoa-palm in front of his hut. He then fearlessly approached the animal, which was nearly covered with water, and deprived him of all possibility of escape, by inflicting several deep wounds. Life was not extinct, when the alligator was abandoned to his fate, but it was devoted to inevitable death; and when we gave the man his promised guerdon, he observed, coolly, that he would gladly exhibit a similar proof of his skill every day. This animal was twenty feet long.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.—He usually sits in a state of abstraction, his arms folded, his head sunk on his breast, his legs stretched out. He seems to be asleep; but, in a very few moments, he shows that he has not been an inattentive observer of the debate. He suddenly starts up, advances (sometimes with faltering steps, from his advanced age) to the table, and, without preface or preliminary statement, dashes at once at the real question in dispute. The keenness with which he detects it, and the perseverance of his pursuit, are remarkable proofs of the unimpaired vigour of his understanding. Even with all the physical feebleness which might be expected at his years, he entirely fills the house while he speaks. His utterance is very indistinct, yet, by a strong effort of his will, he makes himself clearly heard and understood, even though to do so he may have to repeat whole portions of sentences. Not a point of the discourse escapes him, and the most vigorous debater often finds the weakness of his argument, however cleverly masked, suddenly detected and exposed. Some of the short, terse, pointed sentences fall with a force on the House the more remarkable for the contrast of the matter with the manner. The speeches, as a whole, though always extremely brief in comparison with those of more elaborate debaters, strike the hearer with surprise for their sustained tone, the consistency of their argument, and a kind of natural symmetry, the necessary consequence of their being the sincere and sponta-

neous development of a strong mind and a determined purpose.—*Fraser's Magazine*.

THE AMERICAN LADIES.—The ladies of New York have been, through all time (which means about fifty years), so famous for their beauty, that I know I shall be accused of heresy, envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness, if I say that it is entirely a mistake. But the truth must be told, and I have seen more pretty women in London in one day than I ever saw in all my rambles in the United States. That prominent point of female loveliness, and which the whole English race so much excel in, is entirely wanting in the American ladies; they are as flat as their own horrid sea coast. And though they artfully endeavour to conceal this national deficiency by a peculiar, newly-invented, and really very ingenious corset, yet it will not do; our imaginings return unsatisfied, and our worst suspicions come back confirmed. But it must be confessed that what they want in busts they make up in bustles, and to an excess that shocks an English female, and which is so glaring and preposterous as to be downright indelicate. The pure red and white English complexions must not be looked for in any part of the States. The lilies and carnations are not of American growth; the men are sallow and the women tallow.—*Rubio's Rambles in the U. S.*

ENGLISH SURNAMES.—If English surnames are remarkable for their variety, they are no less so for their number. Antiquarians are of opinion that the whole number at present is between thirty and forty thousand, and of course this is on the increase. The increase in surnames must now arise from foundling children. A curious instance may be mentioned in the case of a respectable citizen of New York, named *Preserved Fish*. He was picked up at sea on a wreck from which all others had perished. English surnames may be divided into the following classes:—1. Local surnames, as *Winchester, Wood, Hill, Green*. 2. Names derived from occupations and pursuits, as *Baker, Smith, Taylor*. 3. Names derived from dignities and offices, as *King, Bishop, Earl*. 4. Names derived from personal and mental qualities, as *Strong, Rich, Noble*. 5. Names derived from Christian names, as *Adam, Edward, Henry*. 6. Names derived from natural objects, as *Star, Lyon, Bird*. 7. Names derived from social relations, as *Child, Cousin, Friend*. 8. Names derived from periods of time, as *Spring, Summer, Winter, Day*. 9. Names derived from virtue and other abstract ideas, as *Love, Hope, Wisdom*. 10. Names of contempt, as *Trollope, Crookshanks, Hussey*. There are also other classifications, oddities, and changes, but the above illustrations will be sufficient.—*Ibid*.

ANIMAL SUICIDES.—It is related in the travels of Monsieur Violet, the truth of which is avouched by Captain Marryatt, that he saw horses that had been tyrannised over by other horses, and treated by the whole herd as outcasts, commit suicide. When tired of their *Paria* life they walk round and round some large tree, as if to ascertain the degree of hardness required, measure the distance, and, darting with furious speed against it, fracture their skulls, and thus get rid of life and oppression together. He says that squirrels sometimes persecute one among their number till he destroys himself. One day, while we were watching this outcast of a squirrel, we detected a young one slowly creeping through the adjoining shrubs; he had in his mouth a ripe fruit; at every moment he would stop and look as if he were watching, just as if he feared detection. At last he arrived near the *Paria*, or outcast, and deposited before him his offering to misery and old age. They were, however, perceived by the other squirrels, who sprang by dozens upon them. The young one with two bounds escaped; the other submitted to his fate. I rose—all the squirrels vanished except the victim; but that time, contrary to his habits, he left the shrub, and slowly advanced to the bank of a river, and ascended a tree. A minute afterwards we observed him at the very extremity of a branch projecting over the rapid waters, and we heard his plaintive shriek—it was his farewell to life and misery, &c.

"WAIT A LITTLE LONGER."

(From the *Daily News*.)

There's a good time coming, boys,
A good time coming;
We may not live to see the day,
But earth shall glisten in the ray
Of the good time coming.
Cannon balls may aid the truth,
But thought's a weapon stronger;
We'll win our battle by its aid;—
Wait a little longer.

There's a good time coming, boys,
A good time coming;
Then pen shall supersede the sword,
And right, not might, shall be the lord,
In the good time coming.
Worth, not birth, shall rule mankind,
And be acknowledged stronger;
The proper impulse has been given;—
Wait a little longer.

There's a good time coming, boys,
A good time coming;
War in all men's eyes shall be
A monster of iniquity.
In the good time coming,
Nations shall not quarrel then,
To prove which is the stronger;
Nor slaughter men for glory's sake;—
Wait a little longer.

There's a good time coming, boys,
A good time coming;
Hateful rivalries of creed
Shall not make their martyrs bleed
In the good time coming.
Religion shall be shorn of pride,
And flourish all the stronger;
And Charity shall trim her lamp;—
Wait a little longer.

There's a good time coming, boys,
A good time coming;
And a poor man's family
Shall not be his misery.
In the good time coming,
Every child shall be a help,
To make his right arm stronger;
The happier he, the more he has;—
Wait a little longer.

There's a good time coming, boys,
A good time coming;

Little children shall not toil
Under, or above, the soil,
In the good time coming.
But shall play in healthful fields,
Till limbs and mind grow stronger;
And every one shall read and write;—
Wait a little longer.

There's a good time coming, boys,
A good time coming;
The people shall be temperate,
And shall love instead of hate,
In the good time coming.
They shall use, and not abuse,
And make all virtue stronger.
The reformation has begun;—
Wait a little longer.

There's a good time coming, boys,
A good time coming;
Let us aid it all we can,
Every woman, every man,
The good time coming.
Smallest helps, if rightly given,
Make the impulse stronger;
'Twill be strong enough one day;—
Wait a little longer.

WHY WON'T THE LORDS REPEAL THE CORN LAWS?

(From the *Examiner*.)

Why will the Lords refuse the law's repeal?
For others' woes Lords have the hearts to feel.
Can they unmoved behold a nation pine,
The Queen assent—the Ministers resign?
No—cease your labours, Cobden, Villiers, Bright,
Both Lords and Commons know you're in the right;
But pompous feasts, the dice-box, and the turf,
Have made the English Lord—the Hebrew's surf.
If eloquence should unslip the debtor's bond,
Why then should garter'd Buckingham despond?
But what can right or eloquence avail,
From the doom'd mansion can they stay the sale?
A nation's gain might be a noble's loss,
It might foreclose a mortgage of Chandos.
Send not, ye League, your voters to the poll,
But clear from charges the oppress'd rent-roll;
Of lands and castles the incumbrance wipe,
And snatch the spendthrift from the usurer's gripe.
That having done—assume the Censor's tone,
And tell the proud—their own is not their own:
Tell the trite truth, that can't too oft be told,
That for the commonwealth their wealth they hold.
Teach nobler motives and a higher aim
Than bets at Ascot, or protecting game.
Teach them the struggling nations how to bless,
"The greatest number's greatest happiness."
For virtue, knowledge—foremost in the race,
The first in honour as the first in place.
Then those to whom a humbler lot is given
Shall see perform'd on earth the will of heaven,
And bow submissive to the wise decree,
Which makes some great ones, yet that leaves them free;
With equal laws their talent to employ,
To work to save, and what they save, enjoy.
When so much wisdom shall my Lords attain,
Our age of iron shall be gold again;
Each class to each in holy concord bound,
Our land the happiest that the sun goes round.*

The following original and beautiful lines were composed by Thomas Hood on his death-bed:—

Farewell, Life! my senses swim,
And the world is growing dim;
Thronging shadows cloud the light,
Like the advent of the night—
Colder, colder, colder still,
Upwards steals a vapour chill;
Strong the earthy odour grows—
I smell the mould above the rose.

Welcome, Life! the Spirit strives!
Strength returns and hope revives;
Cloudy fears and shapes forlorn
Fly like shadows at the morn—
O'er the earth there comes a bloom;
Sunny light for sullen gloom,
Warm perfume for vapour cold—
I smell the rose above the mould!

SONNET.—LONDON AT MID-DAY.

'Tis London, and 'tis mid-day: busy scene!
Nought now but tumult meets our eyes and ears,
For Commerce in her thousand shapes appears,
And with ten thousand voices. As their queen
All classes follow her: the great, the mean,
Knaves, tradesmen, lawyers, statesmen, fools, and seers;
Each courts her favour, each her anger fears.
And where she's waited for, as where she's been,
The tumult reigns: the carriage and the cart,
The run, the walk, the bustle, and the shout,
Are but the various projects mortals start
To keep her pathway, or to search it out;
Till, like a flood, though in its rise but small,
She reaches, touches, and environs all.

E. F. HUGHES.

GLEANINGS.

ILL-Judged SPECULATION.—It is said one of the Irish Judges has lost sixty thousand pounds by railway speculation.

There are at present employed or attached to the London post-office 1600 persons, independently of the various "receivers" and other paid officers of the establishment.

There are building and outfitting on the Clyde at present thirty-seven vessels, amounting in the aggregate to 18,027 tons. Of these, twenty-six are iron-steamers.

The *Boston Post* says.—"The reason why cream is so dear here is, that milk has risen so high that cream can't reach the top."

On the 10th of December, the following appeared in the Quebec shipping list:—"Sir Robert Peel in the mud, and supposed to be safe." About the same time the real Simon Pure was in the mud at London,—rather a singular coincidence.

Dr. Johnson observes that it is, after all, better for a lady to redder her own cheeks than blacken other people's characters.

A national subscription has been set on foot for an equestrian statue of Joan of Arc, in the city from whence she took her warrior name—Orleans; the municipal council of which town has headed it with a contribution of 20,000 francs.

One of the auxiliary improvements at the London Post-office, is an engine of 12-horse power, by which the bags and men are raised and lowered from and to the upper story.

It is impossible to make people understand their ignorance; for it requires knowledge to perceive it; and, therefore, he that can perceive it, has it not.

*Astronomy here must yield to the rounding of the land.—*Ed. Examiner*.

Narrowness of mind is frequently the cause of obstinacy: we do not easily believe beyond what we see.—*Rochevoucault*.

Use not evasions when called upon to do a good thing, nor excuses when you are reproached for doing a bad one.—*Lavater*.

M. Guillermon, a French engineer, proposes to construct a railway across France, from Toulon to Cherbourg, to convey a whole fleet from one port to the other! The object is to obviate the necessity of passing Gibraltar, which would be awkward in the event of war with England!

The negroes of Jamaica, during the first three or four years after their emancipation, had subscribed no less a sum than £4,000 towards the erection of chapels and school-houses.

The house of John Abel Smith, Esq., M.P., banker, London, has munificently insured, with the Provident Clerks' Association, the life of each clerk in the house, for sums varying in amount from £1000 to £250, paying the first, and undertaking to pay all future premiums.

A SMALL PRESENT.—"I will give you my head," exclaimed a person to Montesquieu, "if every word of the story I have related is not true." "I accept your offer," said the president; "presents of small value strengthen the bonds of friendship, and should never be refused."

AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.—As the gods got nothing but the smoke of their offerings, and the priests the meat, so authors get the fame and the booksellers the profits of their works; the noses of the one are tickled, and the stomachs of the other filled.

A western editor commences a long exhortation to bachelors with the following words:—"Come, you poor, miserable, lonely, deserted, vulgar, fractional parts of animated nature, come up here and be talked to."

RESTORATIVE FOR PERSONS SUBJECT TO EPILEPTIC FITS.—When a person is taken with one of the above fits, take some salt in the palm of the hand; its effects will soon be felt, and, we may add, the experiment will be found as successful as the remedy is cheap and simple.—*Correspondent to the Chelmsford Chronicle*.

CHOICE OF EVILS.—The Watch Committee of Gateshead, at its last meeting, had several applications for the office of policeman—one of the candidates candidly confessing that his object was to escape the militia! A man who would undertake the duties of a day and night policeman, rather than run the risk of being sent for a soldier (if a militiaman deserve the name of soldier), is, in our opinion, worthy of the honour of being President of the Peace Society.—*Gateshead Observer*.

The following on *dût*, ascribed to Lord Ellenborough, who was patronised, defended, and ennobled, by Sir Robert Peel, and is the pet political friend of the Duke of Wellington, may be useful, as indicating the feelings of the party as to Evangelical religion. He observed of the second member of Council, that "he was the greatest fool in Bengal, except the Bishop of Calcutta."—*See Foreign Quarterly Review*, December, 1844.—*Patriot*.

A farmer finding a dozen of his men idly stretched out on the ground, offered a dollar to the one who was the laziest of the lot. Eleven jumped up, claiming the reward, each asserting himself to be "the laziest dog in the universe." The dollar, however, was awarded to the twelfth, who had slothfully kept his position, and who, when it was tendered to him, murmured out, "Can't you put it in my pocket?"

A YANKEE GREAT MAN.—Married on the 9th of October, at Worcester, Massachusetts, T. P. Shaffner, Esq., Attorney and Counsellor-at-Law, of Louisville, Kentucky, Past Grand High Priest and Grand Patriarch of that State, a Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of the United States, from the Grand Encampment of Kentucky, junior editor of the *Covenant*, of Baltimore, ex-editor of the *Freemason*, of Louisville, Corresponding and Recording Secretary and Librarian of the Kentucky Historical Society, Recording Secretary of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South Captain of the 1st Company 132nd Regiment, 29th Brigade of Kentucky Militia, &c., to Miss Nancy R. Pratt, of Worcester.—*New York Paper*.

THE TAILOR AMONGST THE COLLIERIES.—A poor tailor, who had been on a journey, had to return through one of the mining districts homewards. Accordingly, after getting his clay pretty comfortably moistened, he set forth. Proceeding onwards he grew weary, and sat down by the roadside to rest, where he fell asleep. Some colliers discovering him in this situation, determined to remove him below ground, and instantly conveyed him to the bottom of the pit, where they placed him undisturbed. After remaining here a short time, he awoke, and looking round, surprised at his situation, was met by a collier, who, in a hollow, monotonous tone, then questioned him:—"Whence and what art thou?" To which the trembling tailor replied, "When I was alive and on the earth, I was a poor tailor at Yarpole, but now I have become one of you!"

THIRTY PER CENT. UNDER ANY OTHER HOUSE.—Such are the magic words to entrap bargain hunters; such are the terms used by the dishonest of this century, in place of the "stand and deliver" of the highwaymen of the past; and in such a sentence may be traced the squalor, wretchedness, and starvation of the working classes of this kingdom. Thirty per cent. under any other house, one-third of the hard earnings of honest industry paid as a tax to avarice and dishonesty! Oh! ye long-headed, shrewd people; hunting, under the name of cheap bargains, your fellow-creatures to starvation and death; what would ye say if, pointing to the union-bastile and to the gallows tree, we exclaimed, this you fill; that you occupy with the victims of your narrow-minded avarice? Thirty per cent. under any other house! The words still ring in our ears: the bells of St. Sepulchre's never pealed forth more awful warning.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

1. *The Church*. Vol. II. 1845.
2. *The Peace Almanack and Diary for 1846*.
3. *Sunday School Teacher's Magazine*.
4. *Magazine of Capital Punishments*.
5. *Hogg's Weekly Instructor*.
6. *The Disruption*. A Scottish Tale of Recent Times.
7. *Principles of Nonconformity*. By GEORGE LEOGE, LL.D., of Leicester.
8. *Doles and Dissent*. By JOHN BROWNE, B.A., of Lowestoft.
9. *The Doctrinal Puritans*. Howe.
10. *First Annual Report of the Young Men's Christian Association*.
11. *The Behaviour becoming the House of God*. By W. BROCK Pastor of St. Mary's, Norwich.
12. *The Deacon's Office*. By the Same.
13. *Funeral Sermon for William Knibb*. By the Same.

14. *The Teacher's Offering*. 1845.
15. *The Voice of the Church One*. By Dr. MERLE D'AUBIGNÉ.
16. *Glimpses of the Dark Ages*. Monthly Series of the Religious Tract Society.
17. *The Youth Instructed in the Gospel Narrative*. By Dr. DEWE.
18. *Heaven Physically and Morally Considered*.
19. *The Autobiography and Justification of Johannes Ronge*. By I. LORD, A.M.
20. *Timothy. A Sketch*.
21. *Memoir of the Scotch Political Martyrs of 1792-3-4*.
22. *Cobbett's Child's Commentator*. Vol. II.
23. *The Jewish Herald*.
24. *Thirty-six Nonconformist Sonnets*. By a YOUNG ENGLANDER.
25. *Knight's Political Dictionary*. Part X.
26. *Magazine of Capital Punishments*. No. X.
27. *Lecture on the Anti-State-Church Question*. By R. LANG, A.M.
28. *Forest and Game Laws*. By H. MARTINBAU. Vol. II.
29. *British Female Biography*.
30. *The Destination of Man*. By J. G. FICHTER. Catholic Series.
31. *Giffill's Gallery of Literary Portraits*.
32. *Sermon occasioned by the Death of W. Knibb*. By J. ALDIS.
33. *America and her Slave System*.
34. *The Church of England Quarterly Review for January*.
35. *Anti-Christ in Prophecy and Anti-Christ in Fact*. By J. PARRY.
36. *The Literary Aspirant Magazine*. No. I.
37. *The Post Magazine and Almanack for 1846*.
38. *The Penny Magazine*. Vol. V.
39. *The Free Church Magazine for January*.
40. *D'Aubigné's History of the Reformation*.
41. *Sermon on the Death of William Knibb*. By T. F. NEWMAN.
42. *Essay on the Origin of Evil*. By JOHN BULL.
43. *A Revised Ministry our only Hope for a Revised Church*.
44. *The Voluntary for 1845*. Vol. V.
45. *The History of the Burial of the Great Box*. Appledore Congregational Tract Society.
46. *The Evils of Royal Supremacy in Religion*. Ditto.
47. *Letter on the Uniting of Slaveholders with the Evangelical Alliance*.
48. *The Book of Entertaining Knowledge*. Part I. Matrimony.
49. *American Slavery proceed to be Theft and Robbery*. By H. C. WRIGHT.
50. *The Dissolution of the American Union demanded, &c.* By H. C. WRIGHT.

BIRTHS.

- Dec. 12, at Mount Providence, Clarendon, Jamaica, the wife of Mr. ROBERT JONES, of the London Missionary Society, of a daughter.
- Jan. 21, at Upper Clapton, Mrs. THOMAS FOSTER, of a son.
- Jan. 24, at Chawson House, Bedfordshire, the Lady of CHARLES JAMES METCALF, jun., Esq., of a son.
- Jan. 24, the wife of PETER RYLANDS, Esq., of Warrington, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

- Jan. 15, at the Baptist chapel, Wokingham, Berks, by Mr. C. H. Harecourt, Mr. W. GRAVES, jun., Arbroath, to Miss SUSAN STEVENS, of the same place.
- Jan. 19, at the Baptist chapel, Blakeney, by Mr. W. Copley, Mr. GEORGE BARNARD, to Miss RUTH PRIEST, both of Cinderford, in the Forest of Dean.
- Jan. 20, at Hawick, by Mr. E. Young, Congregational minister, Melrose, Mr. JOHN RUTHERFORD, merchant, to AGNES, only daughter of the late Mr. WALTER WIGHT, Hawick.
- Jan. 21, at the Baptist chapel, Goodshaw, by Mr. A. Nichols, Mr. THOMAS RILEY, machine printer, Sunny-side Works, to ELIZABETH, daughter of the late Mr. LAWRENCE NUTTALL, Yatop, near Crawshaw-booth, Lancashire.
- Jan. 21, at the Baptist chapel, Grosvenor-street, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, Manchester, by Mr. A. Nichols, minister of the Baptist chapel, Goodshaw, Mr. JOSEPH WHITE, Mosley-street, to Miss ELLEN BARKER, Tamworth-street, Hulme, Manchester; and at the same time and place, Mr. THOMAS KAY, Openshaw, to Miss SARAH BUCKLEY, of Gorton, near Manchester.
- Jan. 22, by license, at the Independent chapel, Castle-street, Great Torrington, Devon, by the pastor, Mr. James Buckpitt, Mr. THOMAS LUXTON, draper, to Miss ANN VICKERY, both of Great Torrington.
- Jan. 24, at the Baptist chapel, Bishop's Stortford, by Mr. B. Hodgkins, Mr. GEORGE NASH, carpenter, to Miss ELIZA TURNER, both of Bishop's Stortford.

DEATHS.

- Dec. 3, Mrs. EVANS, the wife of Mr. W. W. EVANS, of the Baptist Mission, Calcutta, and head master of the Benevolent Institution.
- Jan. 15, of apoplexy, aged 44 years, Mr. JOHN GRIFFITHS, Wesleyan minister, of Diss, leaving a widow and four children to lament the painful bereavement.
- Jan. 21, at his house, Frederick-street, Gray's-inn-road, in his 84th year, and deeply regretted by his numerous friends, WILLIAM JONES, M.A., author of the "History of the Waldenses," "Lectures on Ecclesiastical History," "The Apocalypse," &c. &c. Mr. Jones was a staunch Nonconformist, who acted, under all circumstances, up to his principles; having embraced those views which he deemed consonant to the New Testament, he consistently adhered to them throughout life. It may be said of him, "that he never faltered in the worst, nor ever wavered in the best times."
- Jan. 3, at Worcester, in his 76th year, Mr. S. DICKINSON, of Burton-upon-Trent. He was forty-five years in the employ of the Messrs. Peel. His uniform and superior character gained for him the highest esteem of his employers, and the universal respect of the numerous workpeople he had under his care.
- Jan. 18, at Bocking, Essex, SARAH, youngest daughter of Mr. M. STAINES, of Sible Hedingham.
- Jan. 20, at his residence, St. Thomas's-street, Southwark, in the 32nd year of his age, Mr. BENJAMIN HERBERT BARTON (eldest son of Mr. Charles Barton, Great Missenden), F.L.S., Librarian of St. Thomas's Hospital, and author of a valuable medical botanical work, "The British Flora Medica." During a short but severe illness he manifested unswerving faith in Jesus Christ, and died in hope of a blissful immortality.
- Jan. 20, after a long affliction, in the 19th year of his age, GEORGE ROBERT, eldest son of Mr. GEORGE WILSON, at 5, Great Queen-street, Westminster.
- Jan. 21, in the 44th year of her age, MARTHA, the beloved wife of Mr. THOMAS GILLESPIE, of Woburn-place, Well-street, Hackney.
- Jan. 21, at her son's house, in Soho-square, ANN BEAZLEY, relict of Samuel Beazley, of Parliament-street, Westminster, aged 85.
- Jan. 21, at the house of his son-in-law, Mr. Groyther, Ramsgate, Mr. WM. WARLOW, in the 82nd year of his age, and for thirty-eight years the minister of the Tabernacle, Melford Haven.
- Jan. 23, in the peace and hope of the gospel, EDWIN HENRY, aged 19, the eldest son of Mr. C. LAMON, of Sheffield, minister.
- Jan. 23, at Newington-place, Kennington, in the 68th year of his age, FELHAM THOMAS MAITLAND, Esq., formerly of the East India-house.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Friday, January 23.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnizing marriages, pursuant to an act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
Bethel Chapel, Wordham Ferris, Essex.

BANKRUPTS.

ARNOLD, JOHN, Walsall, woollen-draper, Feb. 5, March 5: solicitors, Mr. Smith, Walsall; and Mr. Smith, Birmingham.

BAKER, ROBERT, Southampton, stonemason, Feb. 5, March 12: solicitor, Mr. Townsend, Howland-street.

BUCHANAN, WILLIAM, Old Jewry Chambers, merchant, Feb. 4 and 27: solicitor, Mr. Stafford, Buckingham-street, Strand.

CALWAY, BARTHOLOMEW, Tooley-street, draper, Feb. 6, March 14: solicitors, Messrs. Reed and Langford, Friday-street.

CARLISLE, JOHN, Little Love-lane, Wood-street, commission-agent, Feb. 3, March 3: solicitor, Mr. Bagster, Sise-lane.

CLEARY, JOSEPH, Church-road, De Beauvoir-square, builder, Feb. 5, March 12: solicitor, Mr. Bishop, Lincoln's Inn-fields.

COKER, JOHN, Norfolk, timber-dealer, Feb. 4 and 27: solicitors, Mr. Dufaur, South-square, Gray's Inn; and Mr. Pillans, Swaffham, Norfolk.

CROSSLAND, BENJAMIN, Feany-bridge, near Huddersfield, head-knitter, Feb. 12 and 26: solicitors, Mr. Abbott, Charlotte-street; and Messrs. Atkinson and Co., Manchester.

FREEMAN, JAMES, Cheltenham, lodging-house-keeper, Feb. 5, March 6: solicitors, Messrs. Hall, Mourilyon, and Co., Verulam-buildings, Gray's Inn.

HILWOOD, JOSEPH HUTCHINSON, Cornhill, merchant, Feb. 3, March 6: solicitors, Messrs. Morris, Stone, and Townson, Moor-gate-street Chambers.

HODGSON, THOMAS, Liverpool, bookseller, Feb. 6 and 27: solicitors, Messrs. Vincent and Co., Temple; and Mr. Payne, Liverpool.

HOLDER, SAMUEL BATEMAN, London, merchant, Feb. 4, March 4: solicitors, Messrs. Gregory and Co., Bedford-row.

HUTSON, DAVID, St. Alban's, agent, Jan. 30, March 14: solicitors, Messrs. Weal and Co., Falcon-street, Fleet-street.

KNIGHT, THOMAS, and MICHAEL, THOMAS, Bath, upholsterers, Feb. 10, March 10: solicitors, Messrs. Galsworthy and Co., Cook's-court, Lincoln's Inn; and Messrs. Graves and Co., Bath.

LINNET, JOHN, Argyll-place, Regent-street, goldsmith, Feb. 6, March 6: solicitor, Mr. Boulton, Northampton-square.

MIDDLETON, GEORGE, Nottingham, wine-merchant, Feb. 6, March 6: solicitors, Mr. Brown, Nottingham; and Mr. Smith, Birmingham.

ROBERTS, JOHN, and HUGHES, HUGH, Manchester, linendrapers, Feb. 5 and 26: solicitors, Messrs. Reed and Langford, Friday-street, Cheapside; and Messrs. Sale, Worthington, and Shipman, Manchester.

TUDDENHAM, JOHN, Pickering-place, Bayswater, builder, Feb. 5, March 12: solicitor, Mr. Dolman, Clifford's Inn.

TURNER, JOHN, Brooke-street, Holborn, printing-materials-manufacturer, Feb. 2, March 5: solicitors, Messrs. Willoughby and Co., Clifford's Inn.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

CARTER, D., Aberdeen, machine maker, Jan. 27, Feb. 17.

DIVIDENDS.

Lowe, Bristol, wood-turner; first div. of 4s. 6d. any Wednesday Mr. Kynaston, Bristol;—Hansen, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchant; first div. of 2s. any Saturday; Mr. Wakley, Newcastle-upon-Tyne;—Hutchings, Bath, bootmaker; first div. of 3s. 6d. any Wednesday; Mr. Kynaston, Bristol;—Ploverman; first div. of 3s. 9d. any Wednesday; Mr. Belcher, King's Arms-yard, Moor-gate-street.

Tuesday, Jan. 27.

BANKRUPTS.

BARNES, EDGAR, Aldborough, wine-merchant, Feb. 6, March 13: solicitors, Messrs. Pain and Hatherly, Basinghall-street, City.

BUNN, JOHN, Norwich, builder, Feb. 5, March 10: solicitors, Messrs. Abbott and Wheatley, Rolls-yard, for Mr. Miller, Norwich.

CARLISLE, JOHN, Little Love-lane, Wood-street, commission-agent, Feb. 3, March 3: solicitor, Mr. Bagster, Sise-lane, City.

CLAYTON, EDWARD, Edgeware-road, licensed victualler, Feb. 6, March 13: solicitor, Mr. Smith, Barnard's-inn.

COULSON, JAMES, Bridge-water, grocer, Feb. 6, March 10: solicitors, Messrs. Blower and Co., Lincoln's-inn-fields.

CULLEN, SAMUEL, Nottingham, chemist, Feb. 9, March 2: solicitors, Mr. Wells, Nottingham; and Mr. James, Waterloo-street, Birmingham.

EMANUEL, MICHAEL and HENRY, Hanover-square, goldsmiths, Feb. 13, March 13: Messrs. John and Charles Cole, Adelphi-terrace, Strand.

FOX, ROBERT GODFREY, Canterbury, wine and spirit merchant, Feb. 10, March 10: solicitor, Mr. Murray, New London-street, City.

GIBSON, CHARLES, South-street, Grosvenor-square, cheesemonger, Feb. 6, March 10: solicitor, Mr. George, Villiers-street, Strand.

HILL, JAMES, Leeds, sharebroker, Feb. 10, March 3: solicitors, Messrs. Hawkins and Co., New Boswell-court, London; and Messrs. Horsfall and Harrison, Leeds.

KENNEDY, LAURENCE, Rochester-terrace, Stoke Newington, pawnbroker, Feb. 6, March 6: solicitor, Mr. Donne, New Broad-street.

MASSEY JOHN, Etruria, Stafford, gas-fitter, Feb. 10, March 10: solicitor, Mr. Harrison, Birmingham.

METFORD, JOSEPH, jun., Southampton, ironmonger, Feb. 10, March 6: solicitor, Mr. Bishop, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

MELHUISEN, JAMES, Exeter, innkeeper, Feb. 11, March 4: solicitors, Mr. Terrell, Exeter; and Mr. Terrell, Basinghall-street, London.

OAKLEY, THOMAS, Kingsbury-farm, St. Alban's, farmer, Feb. 13, March 13: solicitors, Messrs. J. T. and H. Baddeley, Leman-street, Goodman's-fields.

SANDERSON, WILLIAM WALTER, Great Russell-street, Covent-garden, baker, Feb. 7, March 12: solicitors, Messrs. Hilleary, Fenchurch-street.

TURBS, THOMAS, Palace-row, New-road, Middlesex, cowkeeper, Feb. 7, March 12: solicitors, Messrs. Rickards and Walker, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

MACNAIR, MARY, or BROWN, Glasgow, flesher, Feb. 2, 28.

JOHNSON, PAUL, and HUNTER, Glasgow, manufacturers, Feb. 3, 24.

RUSSELL, ROBERT, Glasgow, brickmaker, Feb. 2, 28.

CARTER, DAVID, Aberdeen, machine-maker, Jan. 29, Feb. 19.

BODSTEIN and Co., Glasgow, calico printers, Feb. 4, 25.

DIVIDENDS.

Feb. 19, W. Behnes, Osnaburg-street, New-road, marble merchant;—Feb. 24, T. Gundry and J. Gundry, Goldsmithy, Cornwall, merchants;—Feb. 21, J. Chaloner, Chester, currier;—Feb. 17, D. Parry, Ruthin Denbigh, currier;—Feb. 17, W. Ockleston, Liverpool, hide merchant.

BRITISH FUNDS.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols ..	94½	94½	94½	94	94½	94½
Ditto for Account ..	94½	95	94½	94½	95	94½
3 per cent. Reduced ..	95½	95½	94½	94½	95	95½
New 3 per cent.	97	97	96½	96½	97	97
Long Annuities	104	104	104	104	104	104
Bank Stock	205½	207	205	205	206½	204
India Stock	—	253	—	—	252	—
Exchequer Bills	19pm	21pm	21pm	20pm	20pm	28pm
India Bonds	—	—	—	25	28	39

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Belgian	97½	Mexican	30
Brazilian	82½	Peruvian	41
Buenos Ayres	41	Portuguese 5 per cents ..	27½
Columbian	164	Ditto converted	69½
Danish	89½	Russian	112½
Dutch 2½ per cents	59½	Spanish Active	38½
Ditto 4 per cents	95½	Ditto Passive	62
French 3 per cents	82½	Ditto Deferred	164

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham & Gloucester ..	130	London & Croydon Trunk ..	22½
Blackwall	8½	London and Greenwich ..	10½
Bristol and Exeter	84	Ditto New	—
Eastern Counties	222	Manchester and Leeds ..	134
Edinburgh and Glasgow ..	75	Midland Counties	154
Grand Junction	—	Ditto New Shares	29
Great North of England ..	216	Manchester and Birming ..	77
Great Western	162	Midland and Derby	122½
Ditto Half	90	Norwich and Brandon ..	22½
Ditto Fifts	37	South Eastern and Dover ..	384
London and Birmingham ..	222	South Western	73
London & Birm. & Shares ..	27	Trent Valley	204
London and Brighton	68	York and North Midland ..	112

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, Jan. 26.

The arrivals of English wheat are very small, which has caused rather more firmness in the market to-day, and samples are generally cleared off at fully the currency of this day week. Foreign wheat is held at last week's prices, and we have had more demand for bonded wheat, and some parcels here and cargoes floating have changed hands at 1s. per qr. advance. The flour trade continues dull, and prices nominally the same. The trade is very inactive for barley, beans, and peas, and we have no change in their value. The arrivals of oats are short, and prices are fully maintained on the small business doing to-day.

Wheat, Red	48 to 57	Malt, Ordinary	47 to 50
Fine	50 .. 62	Pale	52 .. 60
White	55 .. 63	Rye	34 .. 40
Fine	58 .. 66	Peas, Hog	32 .. 34
Flour, per sack	30 .. 56	Maple	30 .. 35
Barley	24 .. 30	Boilers	41 .. 45
Malt	33 .. 38	Beans, Ticks	31 .. 39

Beans, Pigeon	39 to 44	Wheat	15s. 0d.
Harrow	33 .. 40	Barley	6 0
Oats, Feed	21 .. 22	Oats	5 0
Fine	23 .. 24	Rye	8 6
Poland	24 .. 26	Beans	3 6
Potato	27 .. 30	Peas	1 0

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR JAN. 23.

Wheat	56s. 2d.	Wheat	56s. 8d.
Barley	31 11	Barley	33 3
Oats	23 3	Oats	22 11
Rye	34 9	Rye	34 4
Beans	36 9	Beans	38 4
Peas	39 13	Peas	40 6

SEEDS, MONDAY, Jan. 26.

It being quite a matter of doubt whether any alteration is to take place in the duties on cloverseed and other seeds, the trade was in suspense, holders of bonded not being at all anxious to press sales. Canaryseed was more sought after, and 2s. to 3s. per quarter higher. Quotations of other articles remained nominally unaltered.

POTATOES, SOUTHWARK, Waterside, Jan. 26.

The trade is languid at the following prices: York Reds from 80s. to 130s.; York Regents, 90s. to 120s.; Lincolnshire Kidneys, 90s.; Scotch Reds, 50s. to 80s. There were one or two fresh cargoes.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Jan. 26.

The demand for hops has not been of any magnitude, and the supply is moderate. Quotations have been very fairly supported for new samples, viz.:—Sussex pockets, £6 10s. to £7 2s.; Weald of Kent do., £6 10s. to £7 10s.; Mid Kent do., £7 7s. to £9 9s.; East Kent do., £8 8s. to £10 10s.; Mid Kent bags, £8 5s. to £9 5s. per cwt.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday, Jan. 26.

For butter the demand continues steady, and prices are without alteration. The bacon market continues to improve, the supply being still insufficient for the demand; and for landed parcels of prime sizeable meat a further advance of 1s. to 2s. per cwt. was obtained. On board a few sales were effected, at 56s. to 52s. for sizeable non-shipped, or for immediate shipment; but the trade evinced no disposition to buy to any extent. Lard is in good demand at improved rates. Hams limited in quantity, and saleable at full prices.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Jan. 26.

The large number of foreign beasts on sale had a depressing influence upon the beef trade, which must be considered heavy, at a decline in the quotations obtained on Monday last of 2d. per 8lbs., the highest figure for the best Scots not exceeding 4s. 2d. per 8lbs., and a clearance was with difficulty effected. The numbers of sheep were very small; all kinds commanded a brisk demand, at an advance in the prices of fully 2d. per 8lbs. There were about 300 shorn sheep on sale. The few lambs in the market sold readily, at 7s. per 8lbs., for the prime qualities. In calves a steady business was doing, at full prices: while pigs were quite as dear as last week.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef	2s. 6d. to 4s. 2d.	Veal	4s. 4d. to 5s. 4d.
Mutton	3 10 .. 5 4	Pork	3 10 .. 5 2

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Beasts ..	589	Sheep ..	2,240	Calves ..	110	Pigs ..	250
Friday ..	589	Sheep ..	2,240	Calves ..	110	Pigs ..	250
Monday ..	3,092	Sheep ..	18,520	Calves ..	73	Pigs ..	315

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Jan. 19.

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.

Inferior Beef 2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d.	Inf. Mutton 3s. 4d. to 3s. 8d.
Middleling do 2 10 .. 3 0	Mid. ditto 3 10 .. 4 2
Prime large 3 2 .. 3 4	Prime ditto 4 4 .. 4 6
Prime small 3 4 .. 3 6	Veal 4 8 .. 5 8
Large Pork 3 8 .. 4 6	Small Pork 4 8 .. 5 4

WOOL.

The market for wool has been rather dull, in consequence of the important proceedings in Parliament, and no leading staple can be expected to assume its right position until the many auxiliary articles connected with it are placed in a permanent scale of duties. But for this, we should doubtless have had an improvement, as other matters are in favour of brisker trade.

COTTON.

LIVERPOOL, JAN. 23.—The demand continues good, and the market freely supplied at the same prices as Friday last. In the early part of the week there was scarcely so firm a feeling, but during the last few days more confidence has been manifested, and previous rates are fully supported. There is a fair business doing in long-stapled kinds, which mostly remain steady, and the same may be said of Surats.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Jan. 24.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Meadow	68s. to 88s.	Oat Straw	30s. .. 32s.
Clover Hay	85 .. 115	Wheat Straw	32 .. 34

COAL EXCHANGE, Jan. 23.

Stewart's, 19s. 6d.; Hetton's, 19s. 6d.; Braddyll's Hetton's, 19s. 6d. Ships arrived this week, 87.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

MILLENNIAL TIDINGS, No. IV. for February, 1846.

GROOMBRIDGE and SONS, 5, Paternoster-row; and all Booksellers. This work is devoted to the setting forth of the PERSONAL and PRE-MILLENNIAL Advent of Jesus Christ; the Character of the Millennium Kingdom; the Fulfillment of the Prophecies guiding us to its Commencement; and the Means of Preparation for that State, according to the tenor of the present Covenant.

No. IV. contains Exposition of Dan. vii. and viii. ch.; The True Israel; Reply to R. Townley's "Second Advent, a Past Event;" Notices, &c.

BETTS'S PATENT BRANDY, certified by the Faculty of England to be the purest spirit, and guaranteed by the Patent Metallic Capsules, embossed "Betts's Patent Brandy," 7, Smithfield Bars," is sold at 3s. 6d., bottle included, by the most respectable dealers, lists of whom may be obtained at the Distillery, where quantities of not less than two gallons, in bulk or bottles, are supplied. Address, 7, Smithfield Bars.

VOICE OF ISRAEL, published on the First of every Month, and may be obtained of all Booksellers and Newsmen in the Kingdom, is the only Journal conducted by Jews who believe in Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah. Price Three-pence; or Stamped, Fourpence. Edited by the Rev. R. H. Herschell, Author of "A Brief Sketch of the Jews," "Visit to my Fatherland," &c.

The **VOICE OF ISRAEL** consists principally of—
I. Essays on passing topics connected with the Jews and Judaism; in which the cause of the converted Jew is advocated; hints thrown out for labourers in the Jewish Missionary field; and those portions of Scripture expounded and enforced which relate to the Messiahship of Christ.

II. Articles on the History and Literature of the Jews.
III. Strictures and Expositions of the Talmudical, Cabbalistic, and Rabbinical Writers.

IV. Spiritual Exposition of the Jewish Ceremonies and Feasts, &c. &c.

V. Notices of the Present State and Movements amongst the Jews in various parts of the world.

VI. Spiritual Experience, &c., of Converted Jews.

VII. Correspondence: Discussions on Unfulfilled Prophecy.

It is hoped that to the Christian minister and Biblical student the **VOICE OF ISRAEL** will be especially useful; but besides this class of readers, it will be acceptable to Christians generally, and especially those who are interested in Israel. To these—

1. It will furnish a faithful Jewish Record.
2. It will present a storehouse of Christian Jewish Literature, &c.
3. It will serve as a tract for distribution amongst unconverted Jews. The stamped edition may be sent, post free, throughout the world.

THE CHRISTIAN WITNESS.—"This is decidedly one of the most instructive publications of the day."

GENERAL ADVERTISER.—"This publication continues to display considerable talent, and both its object and spirit entitle it to support."

The **VOICE OF ISRAEL** is published on the 1st of every Month, by J. UNWIN, 31, Bucklersbury, and may be obtained of all Booksellers and Newsmen in the Kingdom. Price 2d.; or, Stamped Edition, 4d. 4s. per year in advance. Orders for Stamped Copies, to the Publisher, must be accompanied by pre-payment, in postage stamps or otherwise. The First Volume, bound in cloth and lettered, is now ready, price 7s.

THE PIQUA PLANT.—EXTRAORDINARY ECONOMY TO TEA-DRINKERS.

The Piqua Plant is, indeed, an article which claims pre-eminence as a boon for the poor, a delicacy to the rich, a blessing to invalids, and an advantage to the public to the highest degree—unto all and every one. In calling public attention to the Piqua Plant, the proprietor wishes it to be tested solely by its own merits, being assured an unprejudiced trial will establish its worth better than the most laboured eulogy. It is most pleasant and invigorating, and is recommended to the debilitated for its invaluable qualities, to advanced age for its strengthening properties, and to the public generally for its moderate price and intrinsic excellence.

The Test: The proof of the efficacy and healthful effect of the plant in preference to tea or coffee. Let a nervous or dyspeptic patient use two or three cups of strong tea upon retiring to rest, and the effect will be the nightmare, disturbed sleep, and other violent symptoms of indigestion, &c.—**The Proof:** Let the most debilitated, dyspeptic, asthmatic, consumptive, and nervous patients, use two, three, or more cups of a very strong infusion of the Piqua Plant, and in the morning they will awake refreshed with their repose. It is highly recommended by physicians to invalids and children as a most invigorating and pleasant beverage.

The following are reasons why the Piqua Plant is superior to tea, viz.:—1st. Because it is beneficial to health; 2nd. It does not injure the nerves; 3rd. Children may use it with advantage; 4th. It does not prevent sleep; 5th. A quarter of a pound will go as far as three quarters of the best gunpowder tea; 6th. It is strengthening and nutritious; 7th. It is recommended by physicians, and tea is disapproved of by them. It greatly improves the voice; it is recommended to singers and public speakers.

TESTIMONIALS.

To Mr Wm. Evans. Sir,—The beverage under the name of Piqua Plant I have drank for some time. It was first recommended to my notice as a salutary beverage by a friend who is a great dyspeptic, and I have since recommended it to several patients suffering from chronic affections of the digestive organs, heart, and lungs, with manifest advantage. JOHN BRYANT, M.D.
20, Edgware-road, July 1, 1843.

To Mr Wm. Evans. Sir,—At a social party, convened expressly for the purpose of testing the Piqua Plant in this town (Belfast), we, whose signatures are attached to this document, consider it a duty incumbent upon us to bear our most ardent testimony to its salutary, convalescent, and exhilarating qualities:—Dr. Carse, Dr. Read, John M'Beair, surgeon, Archy Carse, Dr. Gordon, Dr. Davison, John Ellison, Methodist preacher, John Johnson, and N. P. Neile, Lake-View House, near Carsons, Ireland, agent for the Piqua Plant. I would just say, in conclusion, that your plant has exceeded my most sanguine expectations. I am fully sensible that I can obtain a great consumption for it in this locality, as the last I got (viz. 14lbs.) was sold in two days. Many are coming now it is all gone. Finally, it is the opinion of those who give it a fair trial that it is much superior to tea, on account of its medicinal, invigorating, and exhilarating qualities. N. P. NEILE.
Lake-View House, Carsons, Ireland, April 16, 1845.

To Mr Wm. Evans. Sir,—After giving your plant a fair trial, I with pleasure offer my most favourable testimony as to its beneficial effects on the system generally. It forms an agreeable beverage, and I strongly recommend its use to persons labouring under nervous depression or derangement of the digestive organs. J. RENNIE, M.R.C.S., &c.

To Mr Wm. Evans. Sir,—I have great pleasure, and indeed I consider it an imperative duty, in justice to you, and for the benefit of others, to bear testimony to the excellent qualities of the Piqua Plant. It has wholly removed a constant painful nervous debility, with which I was affected, which produced restless nights, and, constantly, overpowering languor during the day. Since the use of the infusion, the disease has entirely disappeared. I sleep soundly for six, seven, and eight hours together, and am better in health than I have been for many years; and others to whom I have recommended it have experienced the same results. You are at liberty to use this testimonial, which I am ready to confirm in person whenever you may think proper. G. TAHOUDIN.
Belvidere-place, Borough-road, July 17, 1845.

Numerous testimonials, from physicians and others of undoubted authority, may be seen at Evans's Depot.

The plant is patronised by many of the first families in the land. The economy derived from the use of the Piqua Plant, compared with Tea, is as follows:—Suppose a family using 1lb. of tea per week, worth 4s. per lb., substitutes the Piqua Plant at 3s. 6d. per lb., which requires but one-third the quantity to make the infusion of equal strength, the saving would be, per week, 2s. 10d., and the cost to the family is 2d., instead of 4s., for one-third of a pound of the plant will go as far as 1lb. of tea. In quarter-pound tinfoil packages. None is genuine unless each package bears the signature of William Evans. One agent wanted in each town and village where there is none. Any respectable trade approved of. No license required.

Direct letters to Mr. Evans's warehouse, 18, Stafford-street, Peckham. London: Mr. Johnson, Cornhill; Sheard and Co., 144, Cheap-side; Mr. Cutter, Strand, next door to Savoy-street.

Sold in Bristol by Messrs. Ferris and Score, chemists, Union-street; Clements, 9, Somerset-buildings, Bath; Burroughs, Market-place, Salisbury; Balle, 247, High-street, Exeter; Gadsby, Newall's-buildings, Manchester; Priestly, chemist, Lord-street, Liverpool; Thornton, chemist, Boar-lane, Leeds; Hill, Totten, Southampton; Brown, Salisbury-street, Blandford; Luff, New-inn, Hall-street, Oxford; Wemyss, Hereford; Lewis, Broad-street, Worcester; Mr. Griffith, 35, Bell-street, Edgware-road; Mr. Abbott, 115, St. Martin's-lane; Mr. Trueman, oilman, Millpond, Bermondsey; Paucsey's Library, Brompton; Mr. Scottford, 84, Union-street, Borough; Mr. Holmes, 29, New row, Lower-road, Deptford; Mr. Robertson, oilman, Dover-road; Mr. Osborn, 17, Bollingbroke-row, Walworth; and 114, Blackfriars-road; Mr. Norton, 28, Red-lion-street, Holborn; Mr. Brandam, oilman, Whitechapel-road; Mr. Hoffman, Barossa-terrace, Cambridge-street; Mr. Truelove, 29, John-street, Tottenham-court-road.

STILTON HOUSE, 147, HOLBORN-BARS, CITY.

R. CROSSLEY is now receiving some of his best DAIRIES of FINE RICH STILTON CHEESE, which are now in the highest possible perfection; the prices are from 10d. to 13d. per lb.; the latter is R. C.'s highest price for the present month.

R. CROSSLEY'S justly celebrated new mild English BREAKFAST BACON, received from the Curing Stores in the country weekly at 7d. per lb., by the side or half side, or EXTRA SMOKED, by which the flavour is much improved, at 7½d. per lb.

Fine flavoured SMALL SMOKED HAMS from 7lb. weight and upwards.

HIGHLY SMOKED BATH CHAPS, an excellent accompaniment for Fowl, Game, &c., or eaten cold for Breakfast, at 6½d. per lb. Superior OLD WESTPHALIA HAMS imported by R. C.

A Dairy of RICH SAGE CHEESE from 4lb. weight and upwards. The first importation this season of FINE RICH AMERICAN CHEESE selected expressly for the London market.

OLD CHESHIRE CHEESE, for household purposes, and all other description of Cheese of first-rate qualities, at moderate prices.

Fine OX TONGUES, cured upon the premises, and in the Yorkshire manner, from 3s. 6d. each and upwards.

All articles purchased for the country are packed and forwarded to any of the London Coach-offices or Railway Termini free of extra expense.

R. CROSSLEY, Proprietor.—147, Holborn Bars, City. N.B. Top of Holborn Hill.

BERDOE'S WINTER OVER-COATS, TRAVELLING WRAPPERS, and OUTSIDE GARMENTS of all kinds, guaranteed to exclude any rain whatever.—Now completed, for the present season, a Large Stock of first-rate garments, of which an inspection is confidently invited. General price of the lighter kinds, from 40s. to 50s.; of the stouter, 50s. to 60s. (either selected from stock, or made to order). All slop or inferior goods strictly excluded. W. BERDOE, Tailor, Over-Coat Maker, and Waterproof, 69, Cornhill (North Side). Attaching W. B.'s name and label to garments not made by him, is but one of the numerous attempts now making to mislead.

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